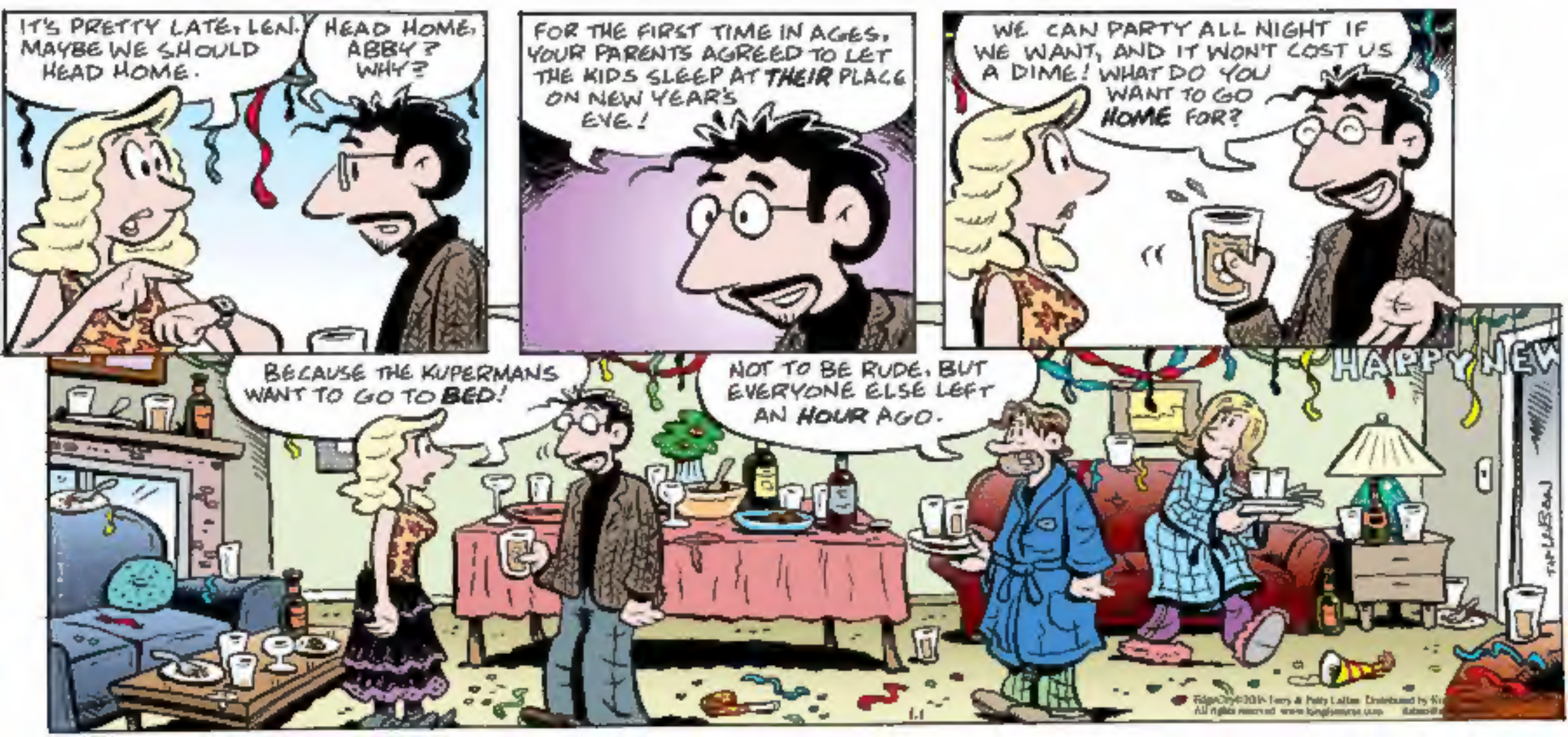
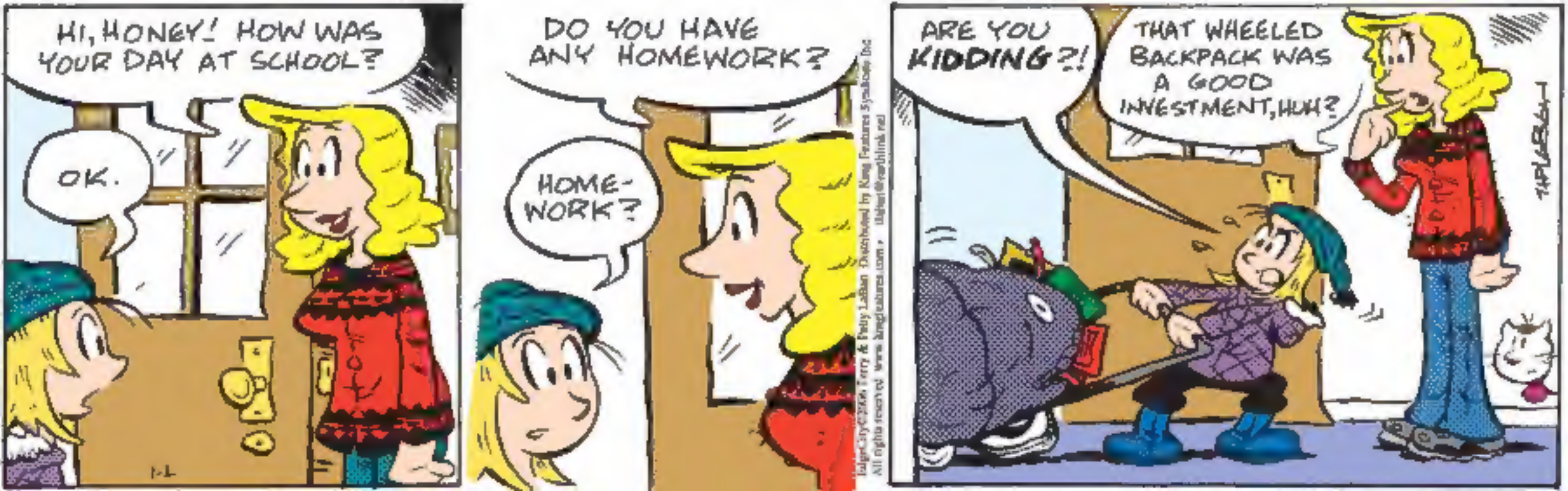
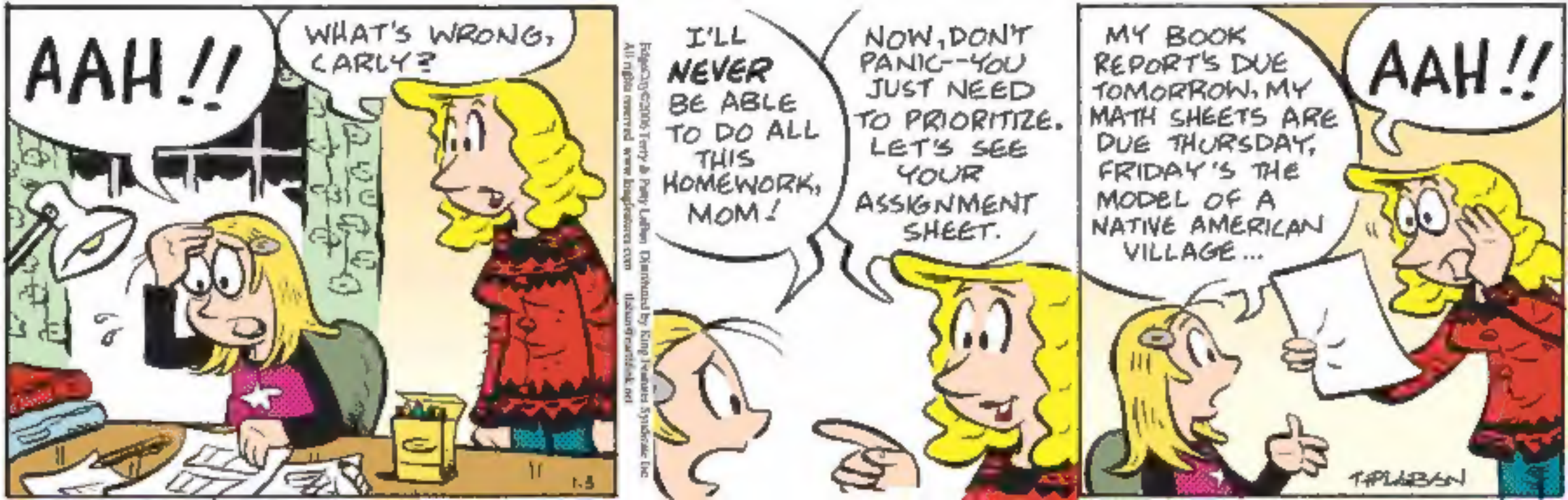

IT'S PRETTY LATE, LEN. MAYBE WE SHOULD HEAD HOME.
HEAD HOME, ABBY? WHY?
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES, YOUR PARENTS AGREED TO LET THE KIDS SLEEP AT THEIR PLACE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE!
WE CAN PARTY ALL NIGHT IF WE WANT, AND IT WON'T COST US A DIME! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GO HOME FOR?
BECAUSE THE KUPERMANS WANT TO GO TO BED!
NOT TO BE RUDE, BUT EVERYONE ELSE LEFT AN HOUR AGO.
HAPPY NEW


HI, HONEY! HOW WAS YOUR DAY AT SCHOOL?
OK.
DO YOU HAVE ANY HOMEWORK?
HOME-WORK?
ARE YOU KIDDING?!
THAT WHEELED BACKPACK WAS A GOOD INVESTMENT, HUH?



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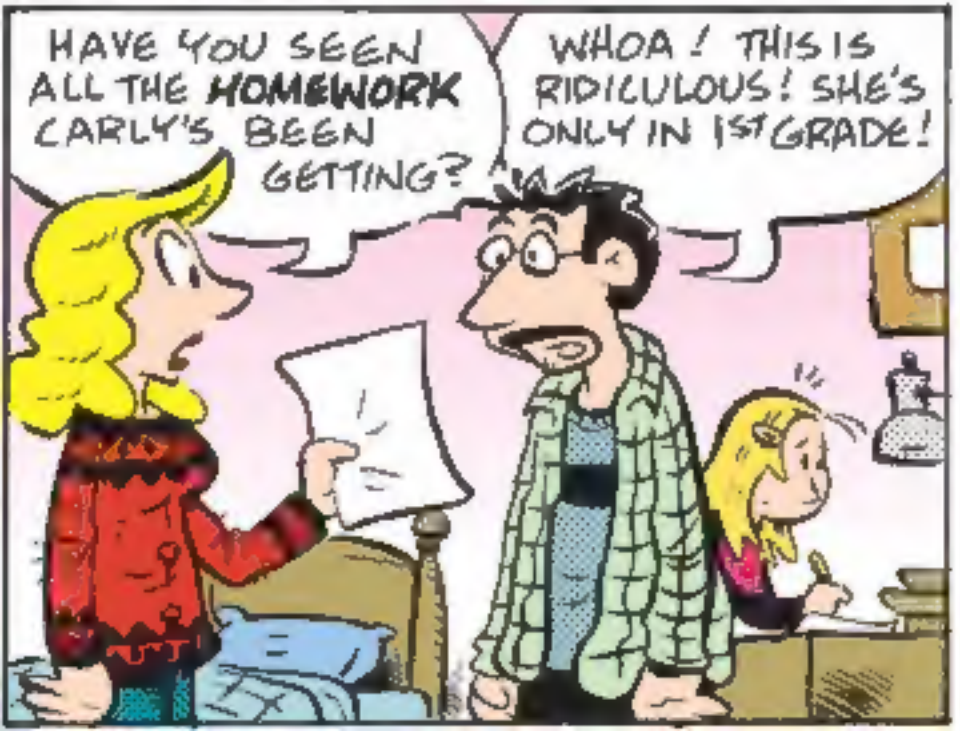


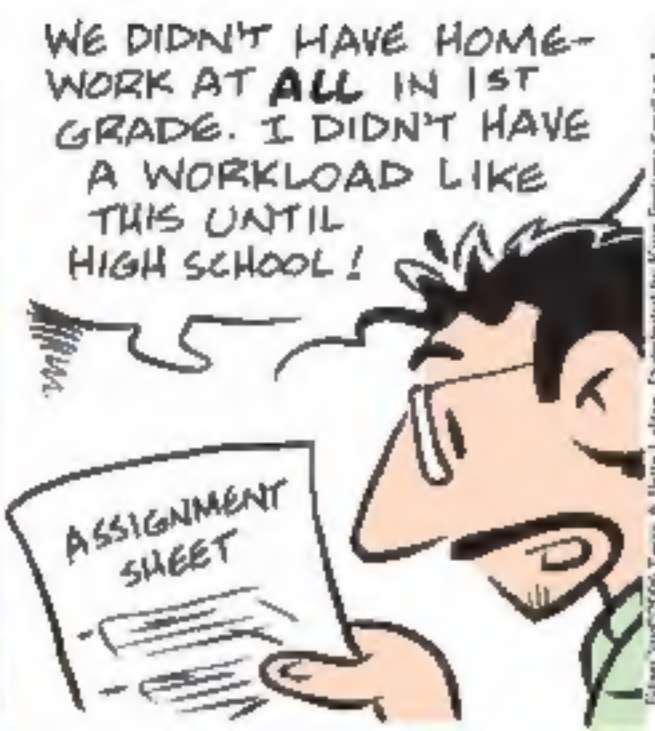


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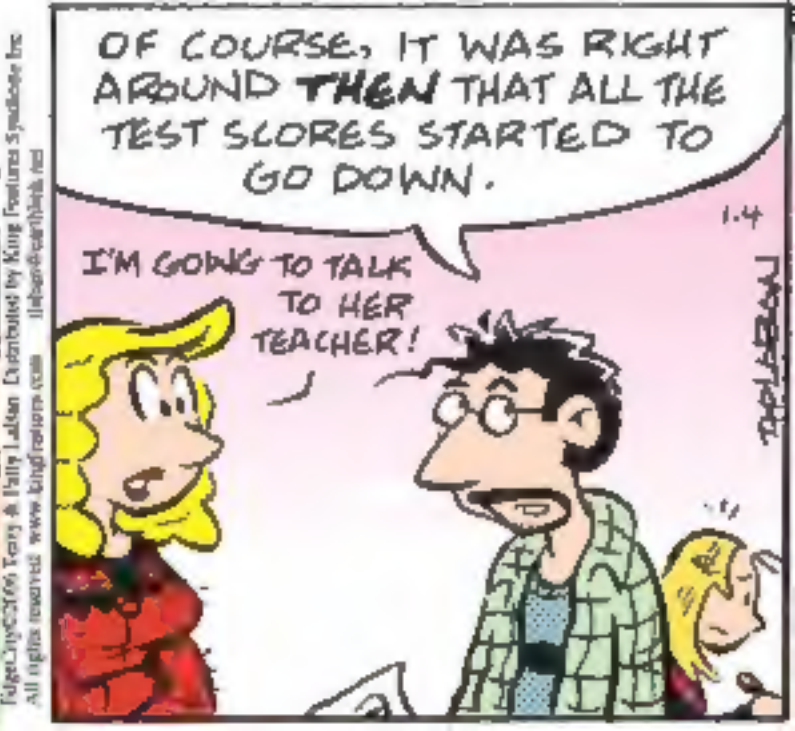

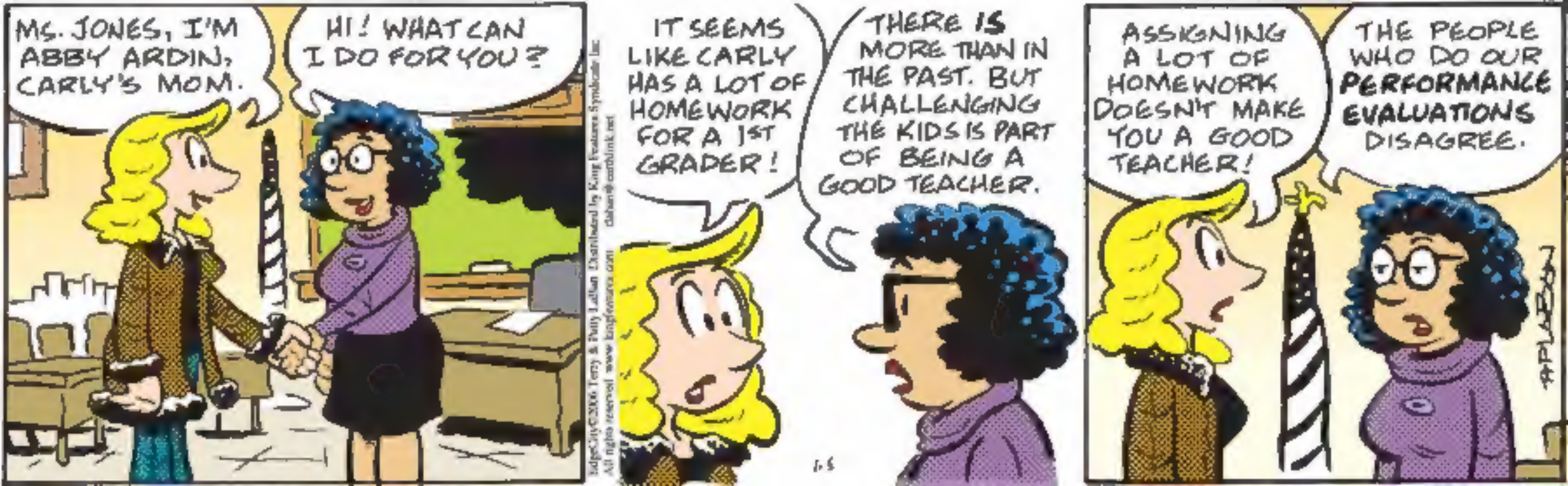

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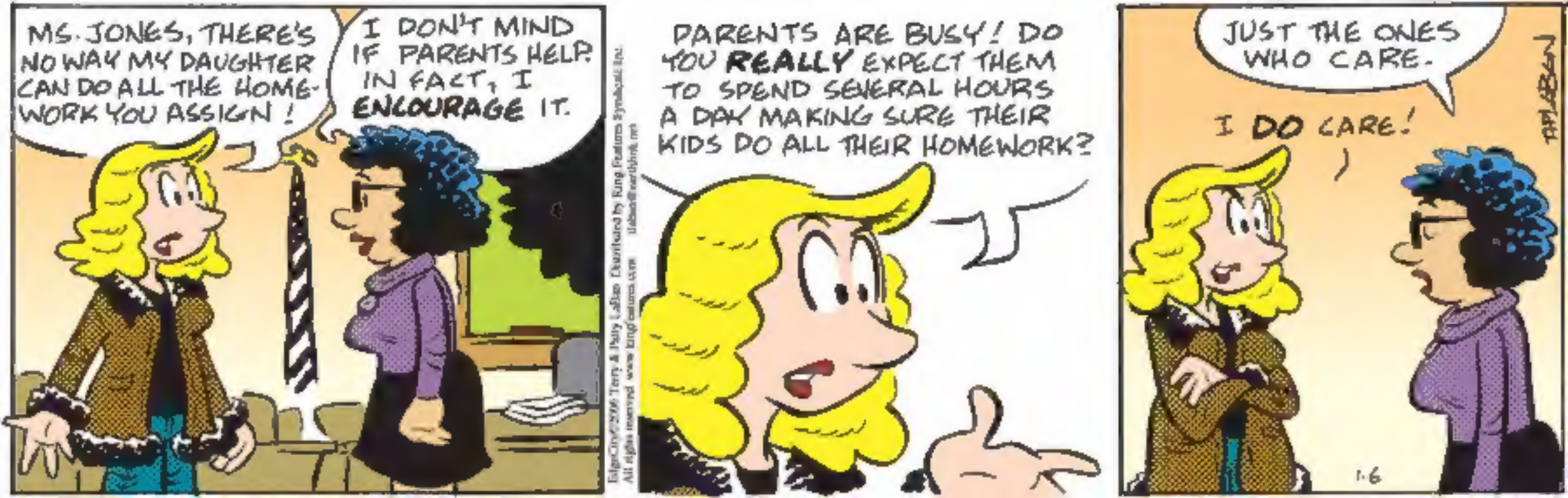
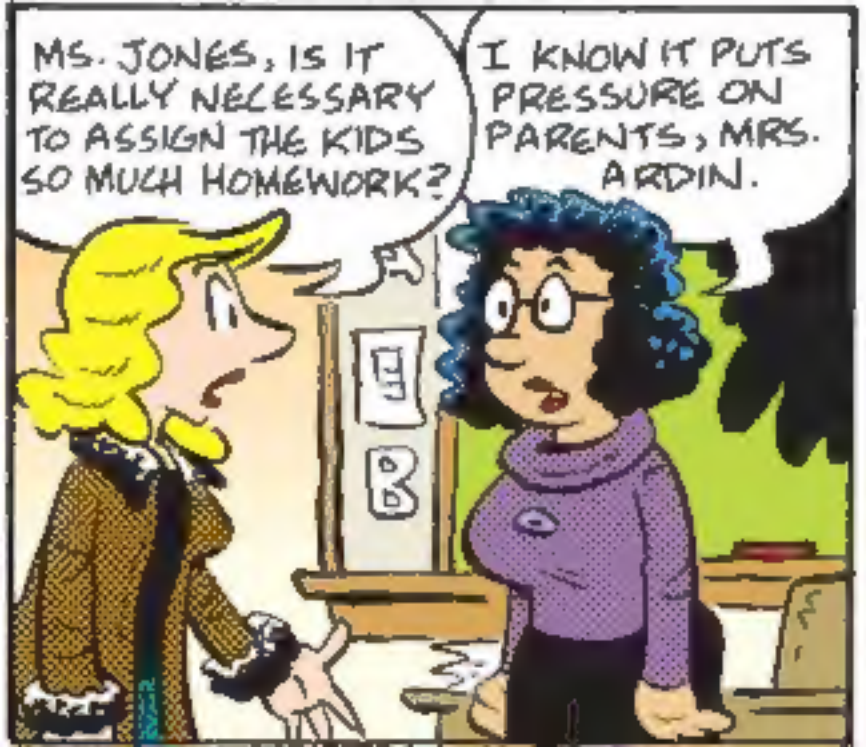
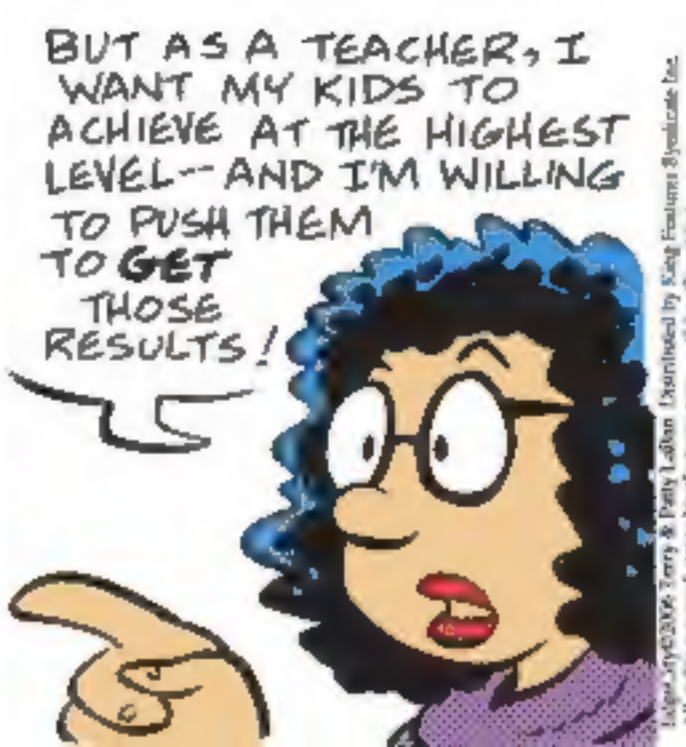
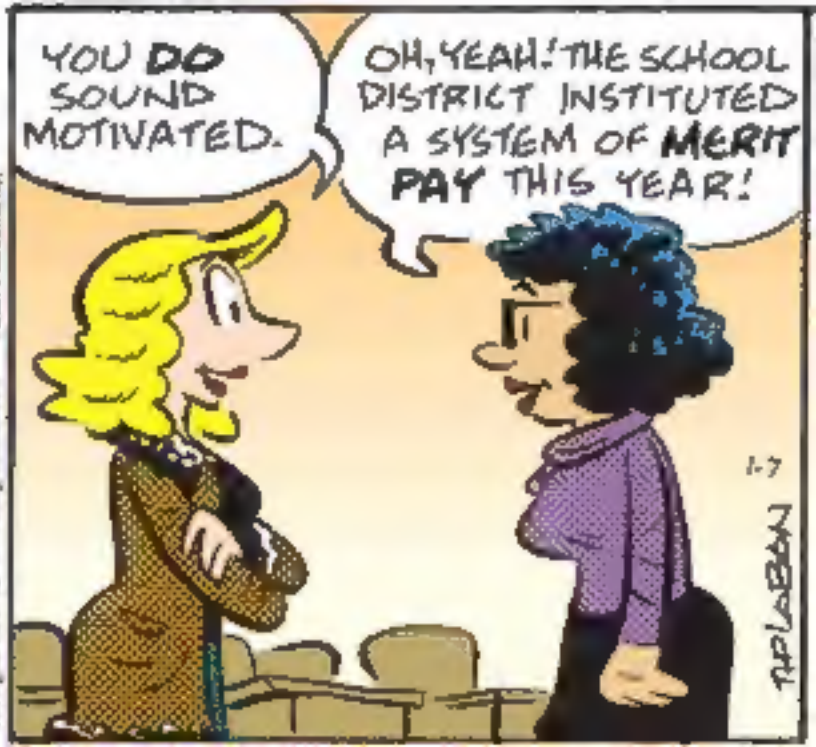
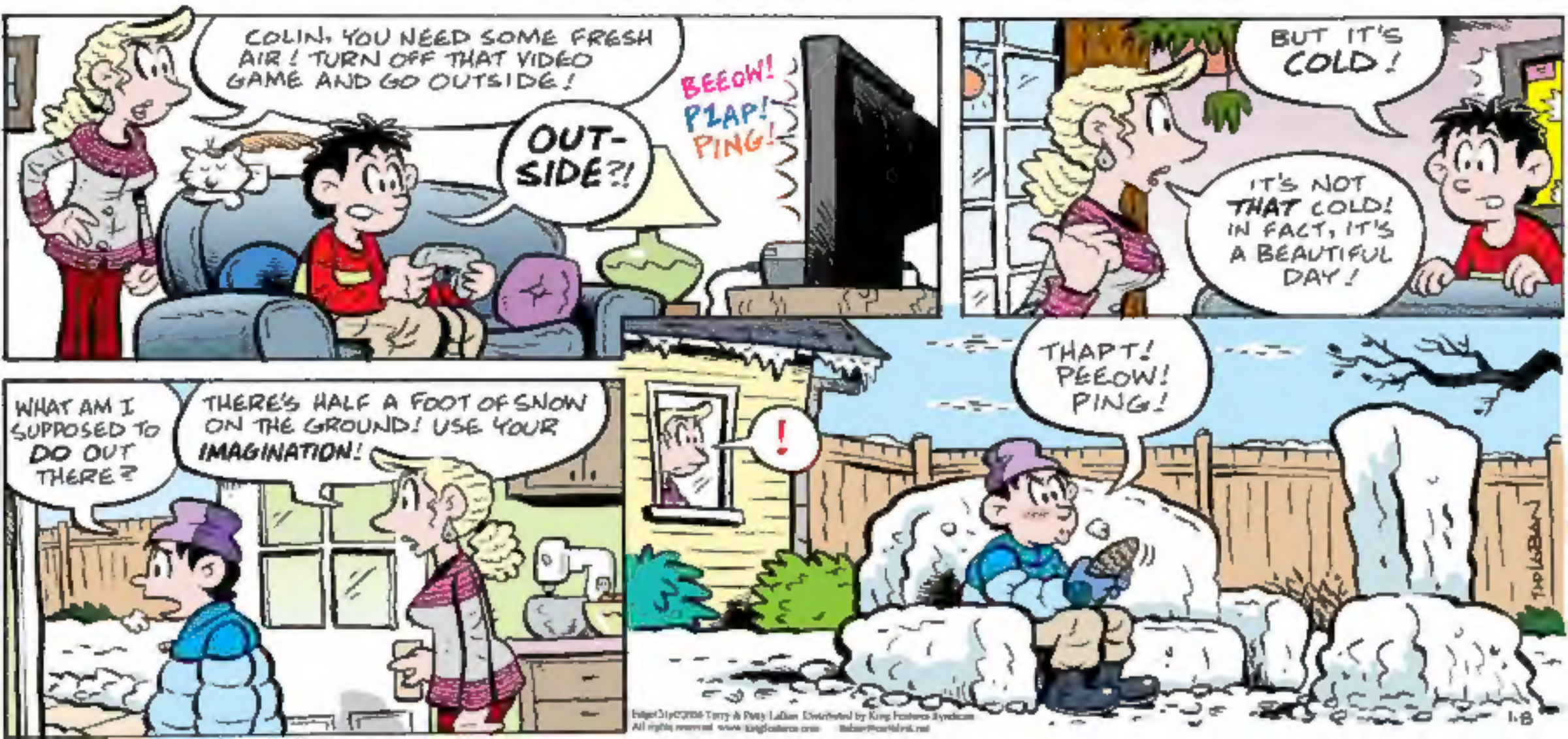
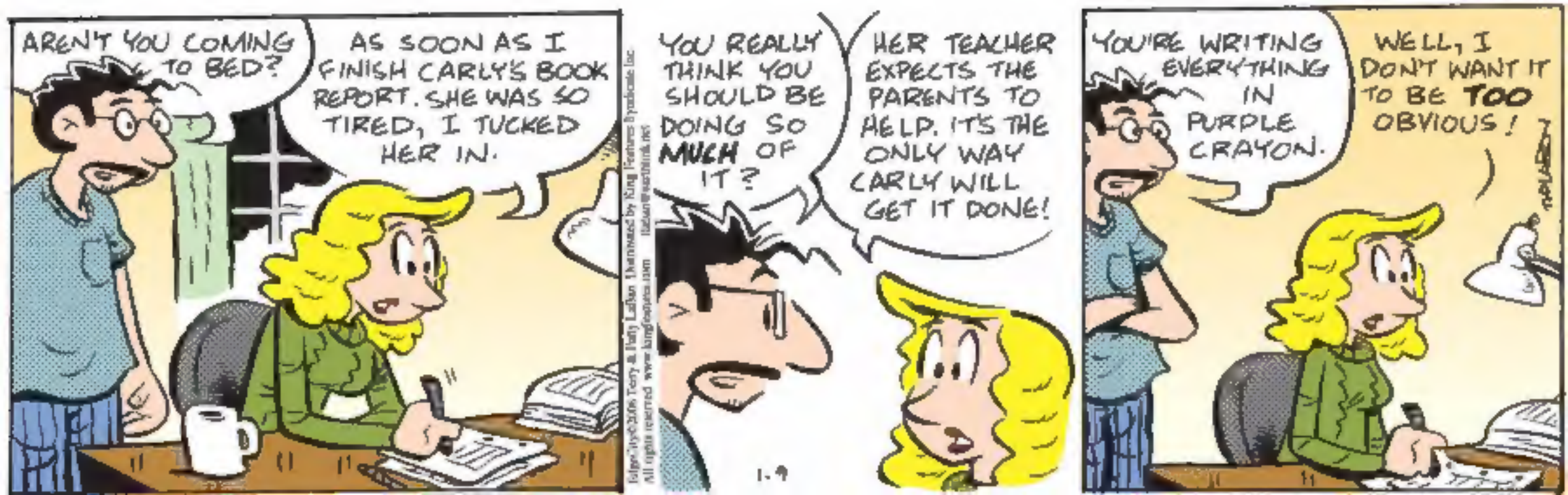

MS. JONES, THERE'S NO WAY MY DAUGHTER CAN DO ALL THE HOMEWORK YOU ASSIGN!
I DON'T MIND IF PARENTS HELP. IN FACT, I ENCOURAGE IT.
PARENTS ARE BUSY! DO YOU REALLY EXPECT THEM TO SPEND SEVERAL HOURS A DAY MAKING SURE THEIR KIDS DO ALL THEIR HOMEWORK?
JUST THE ONES WHO CARE.
I DO CARE!
1-6

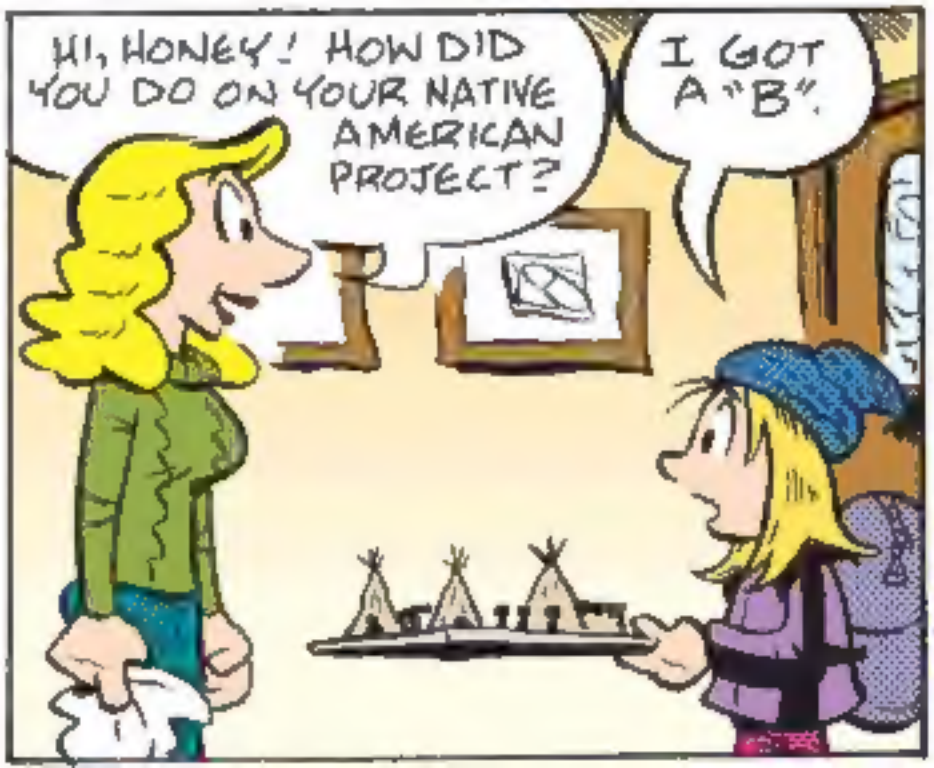

MS. JONES, IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO ASSIGN THE KIDS SO MUCH HOMEWORK?
I KNOW IT PUTS PRESSURE ON PARENTS, MRS. ARDIN.

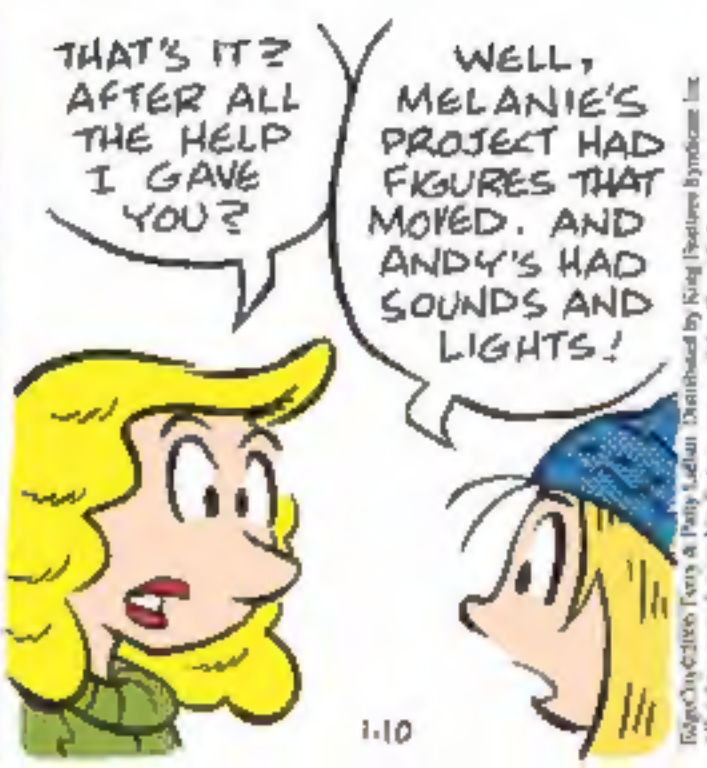

BUT AS A TEACHER, I WANT MY KIDS TO ACHIEVE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL-- AND I'M WILLING TO PUSH THEM TO GET THOSE RESULTS!


YOU DO SOUND MOTIVATED.
OH, YEAH! THE SCHOOL DISTRICT INSTITUTED A SYSTEM OF MERIT PAY THIS YEAR!
1-7
NABAN


COLIN, YOU NEED SOME FRESH AIR! TURN OFF THAT VIDEO GAME AND GO OUTSIDE!
OUT-SIDE?!
BEEOW! PLAP! PING!
BUT IT'S COLD!
IT'S NOT THAT COLD! IN FACT, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO OUT THERE?
THERE'S HALF A FOOT OF SNOW ON THE GROUND! USE YOUR IMAGINATION!
!
THAPT! PEEOW! PING!
THOLBEN
1-8


ARENT YOU COMING TO BED?
AS SOON AS I FINISH CARLY'S BOOK REPORT. SHE WAS SO TIRED, I TUCKED HER IN.
YOU REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD BE DOING SO MUCH OF IT?
HER TEACHER EXPECTS THE PARENTS TO HELP. IT'S THE ONLY WAY CARLY WILL GET IT DONE!
YOU'RE WRITING EVERYTHING IN PURPLE CRAYON.
WELL, I DON'T WANT IT TO BE TOO OBVIOUS!

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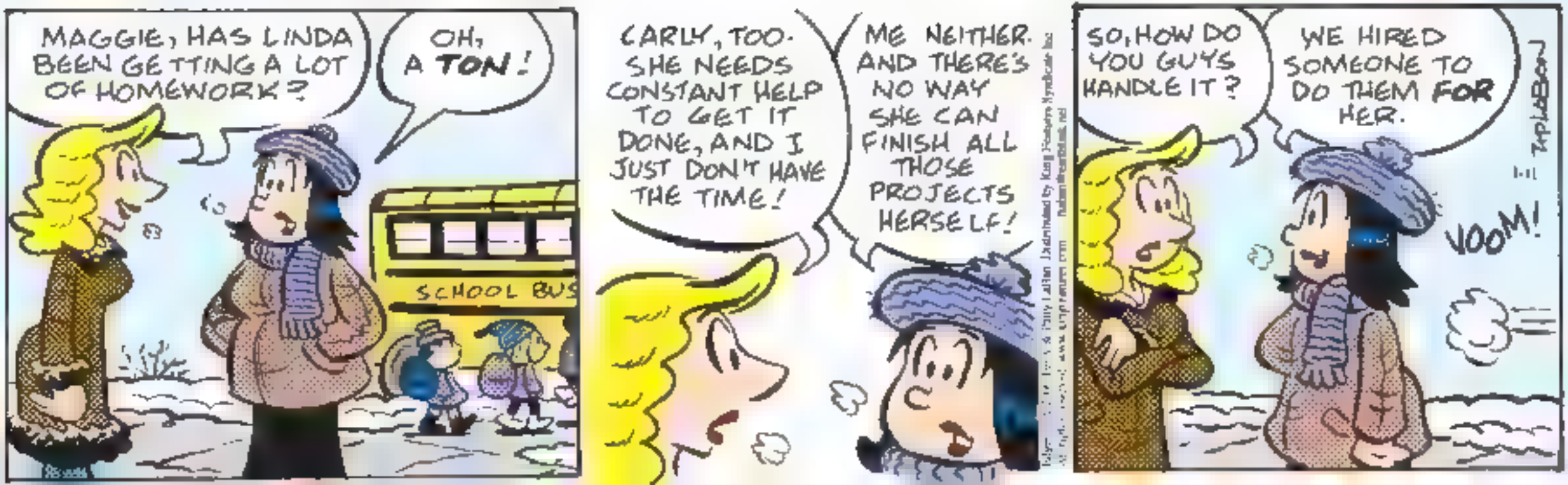
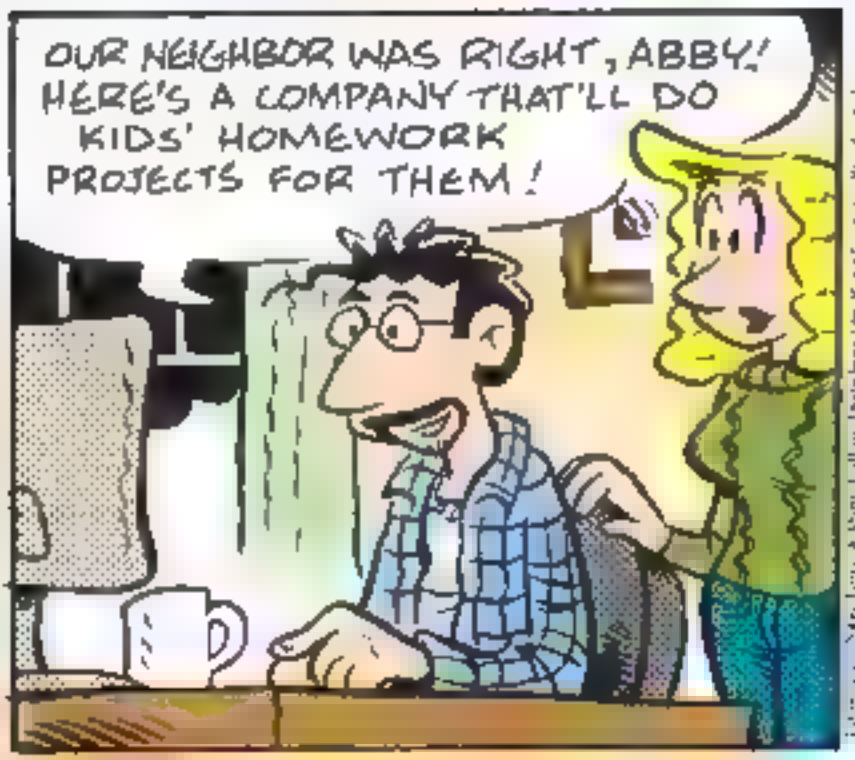
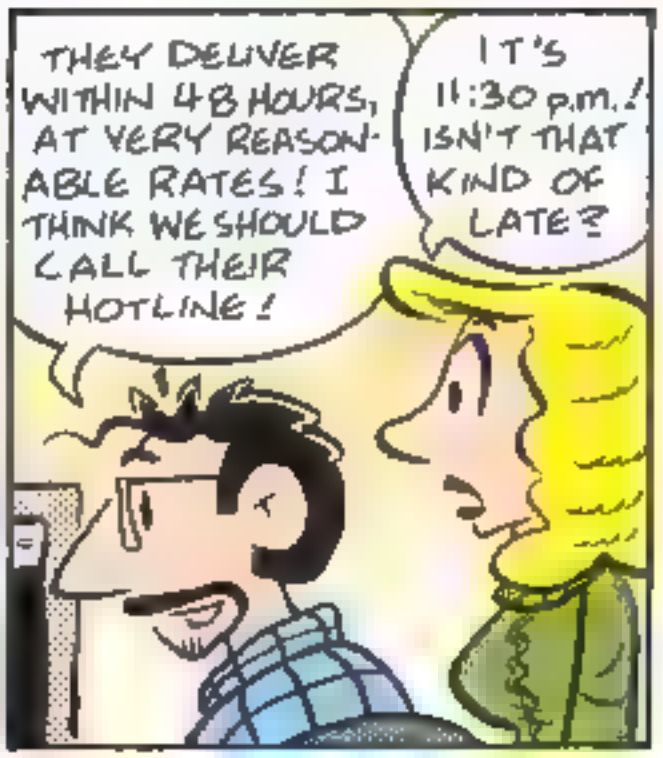
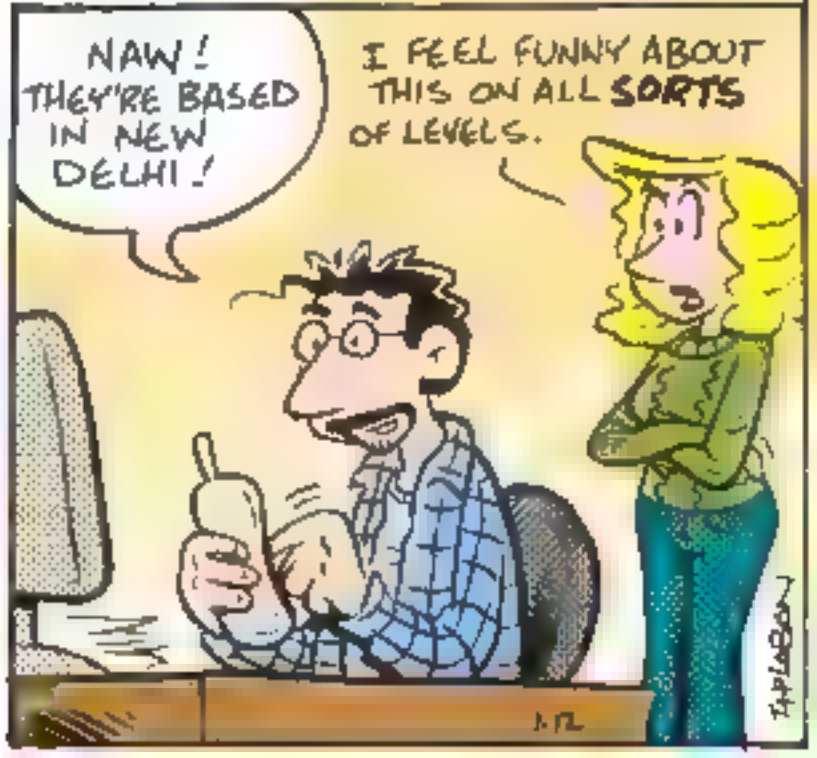
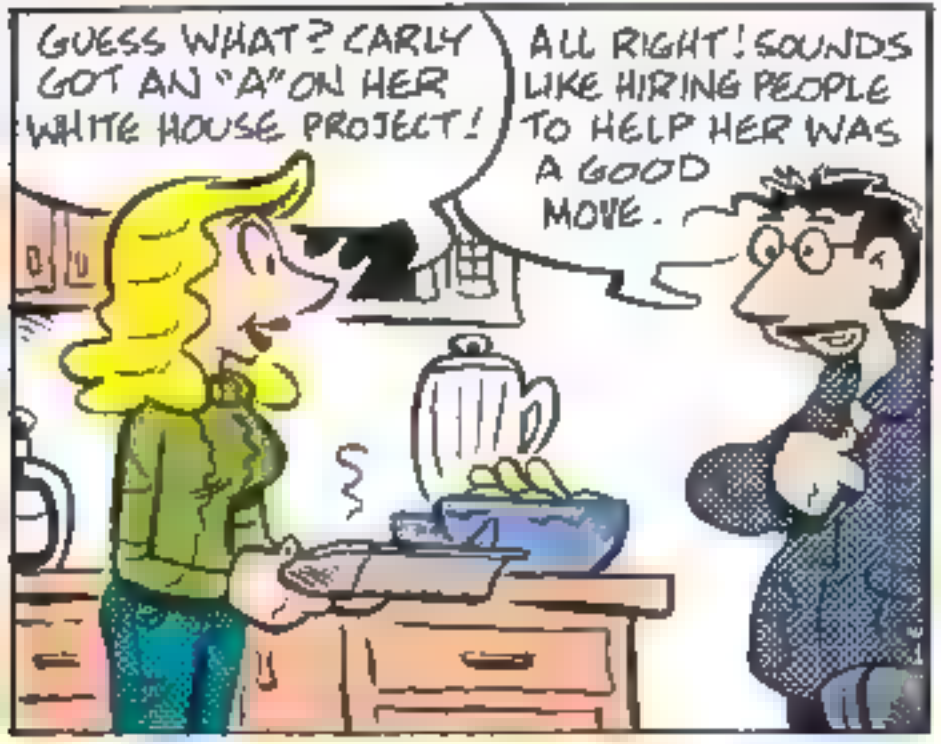

MAGGIE, HAS LINDA BEEN GETTING A LOT OF HOMEWORK?
OH, A TON!
SCHOOL BUS
CARLY, TOO. SHE NEEDS CONSTANT HELP TO GET IT DONE, AND I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME!
ME NEITHER. AND THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN FINISH ALL THOSE PROJECTS HERSELF!
SO, HOW DO YOU GUYS HANDLE IT?
WE HIRED SOMEONE TO DO THEM FOR HER.
VOOM!


OUR NEIGHBOR WAS RIGHT, ABBY! HERE'S A COMPANY THAT'LL DO KIDS' HOMEWORK PROJECTS FOR THEM!


THEY DELIVER WITHIN 48 HOURS, AT VERY REASONABLE RATES! I THINK WE SHOULD CALL THEIR HOTLINE!
IT'S 11:30 p.m.! ISN'T THAT KIND OF LATE?


NAW! THEY'RE BASED IN NEW DELHI!
I FEEL FUNNY ABOUT THIS ON ALL SORTS OF LEVELS.



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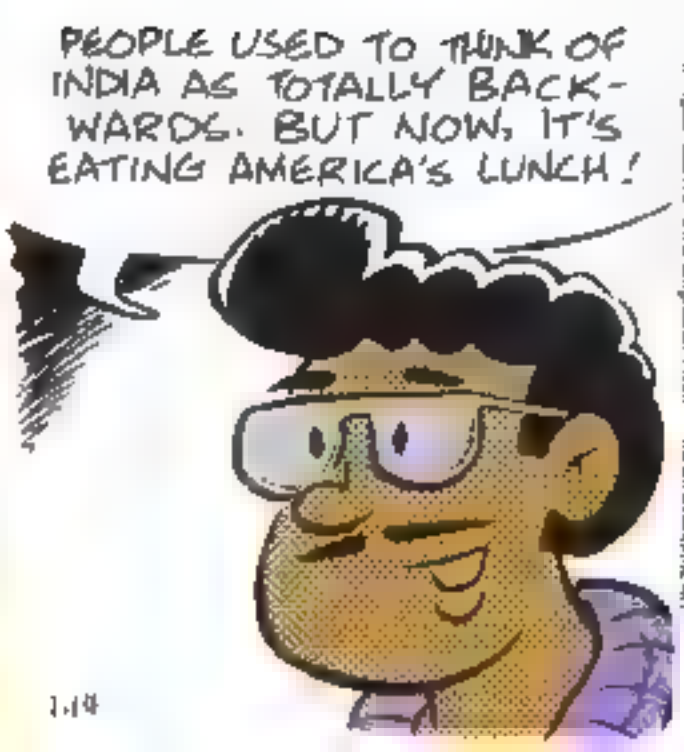


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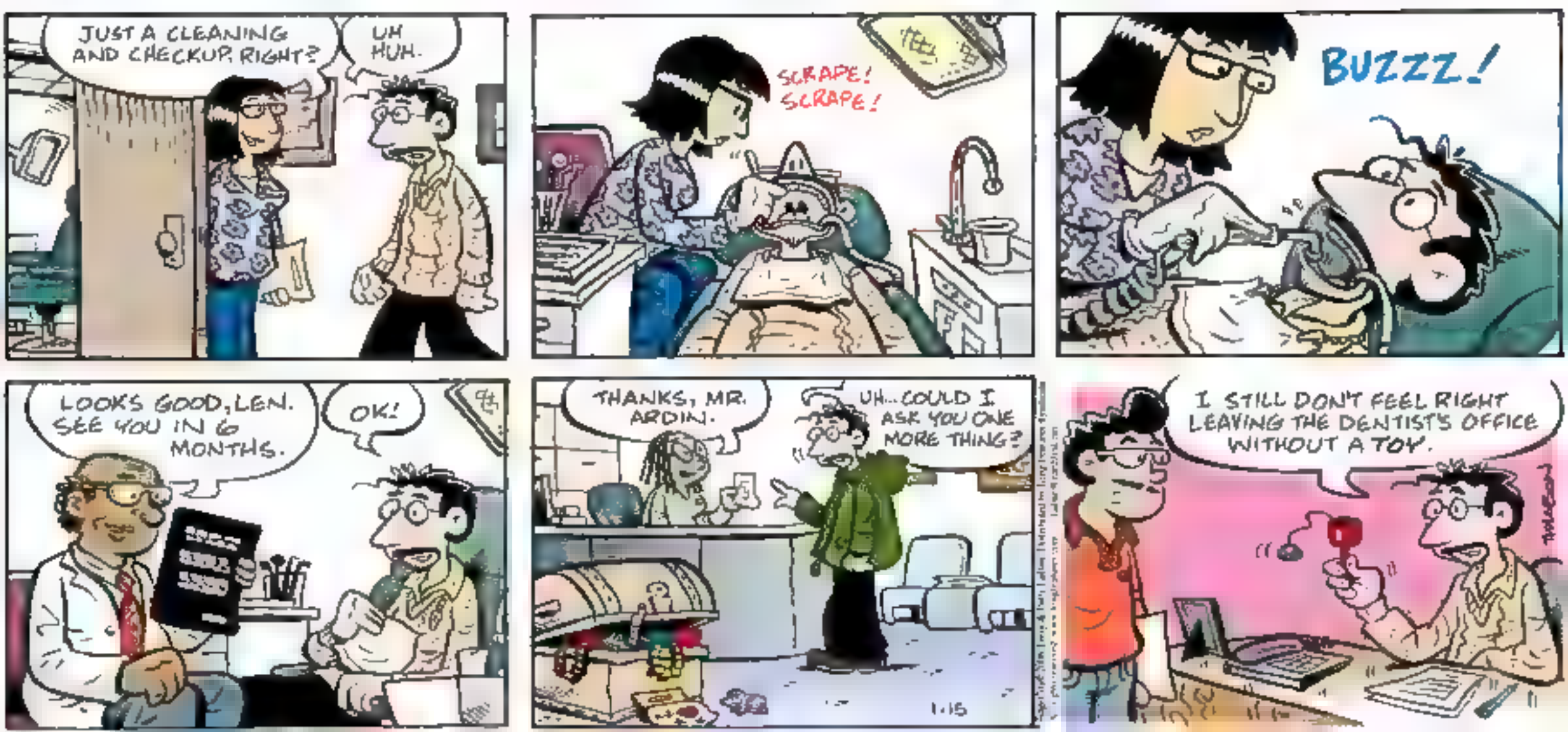
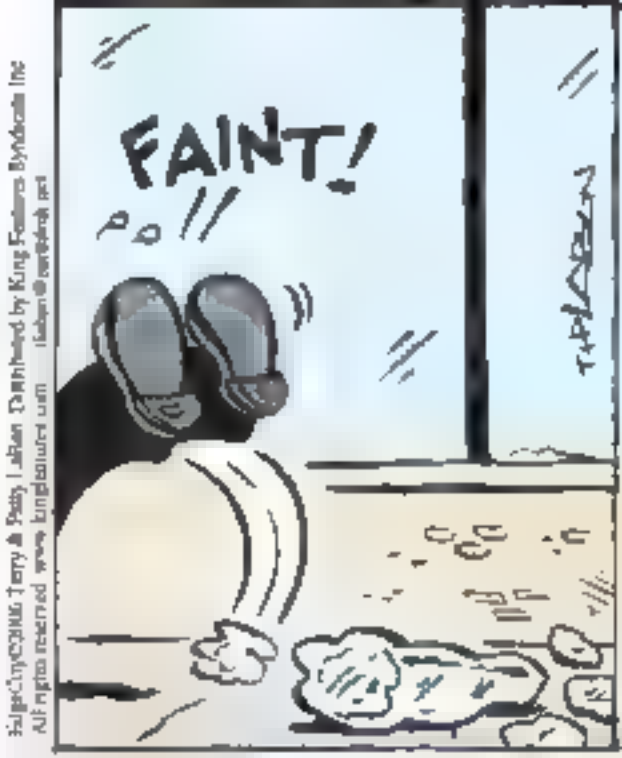

JUST A CLEANING AND CHECKUP, RIGHT?
UH HUH.
SCRAPE! SCRAPE!
BUZZZ!
LOOKS GOOD, LEN. SEE YOU IN 6 MONTHS.
OK!
THANKS, MR. ARDIN.
UH... COULD I ASK YOU ONE MORE THING?
I STILL DON'T FEEL RIGHT LEAVING THE DENTIST'S OFFICE WITHOUT A TOY.

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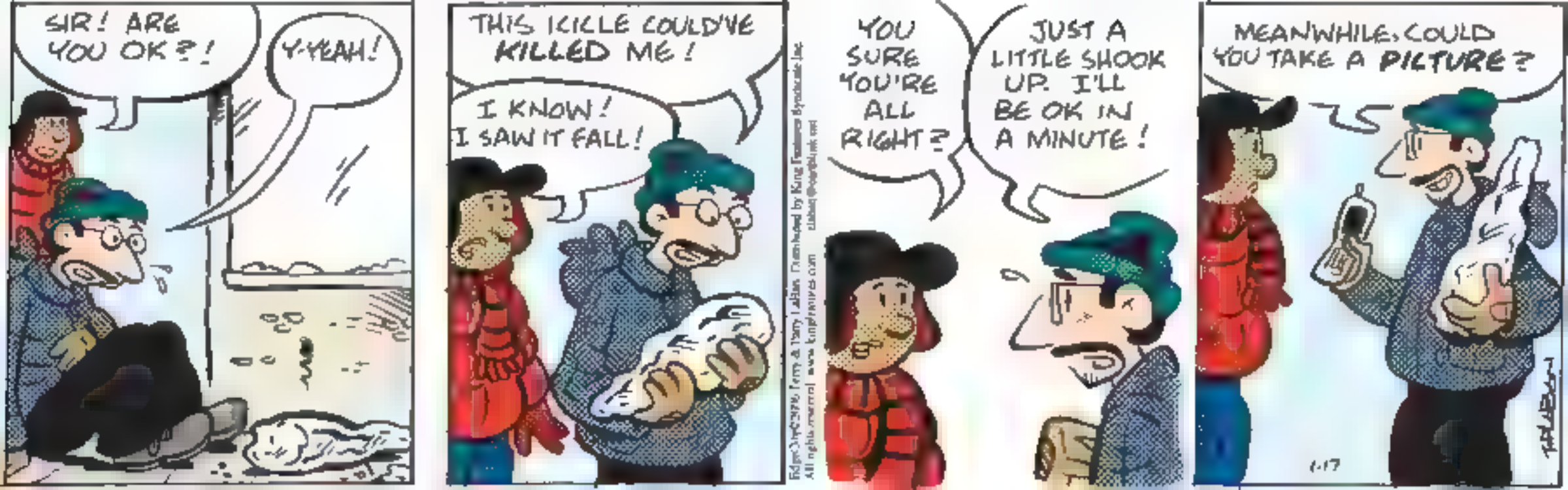
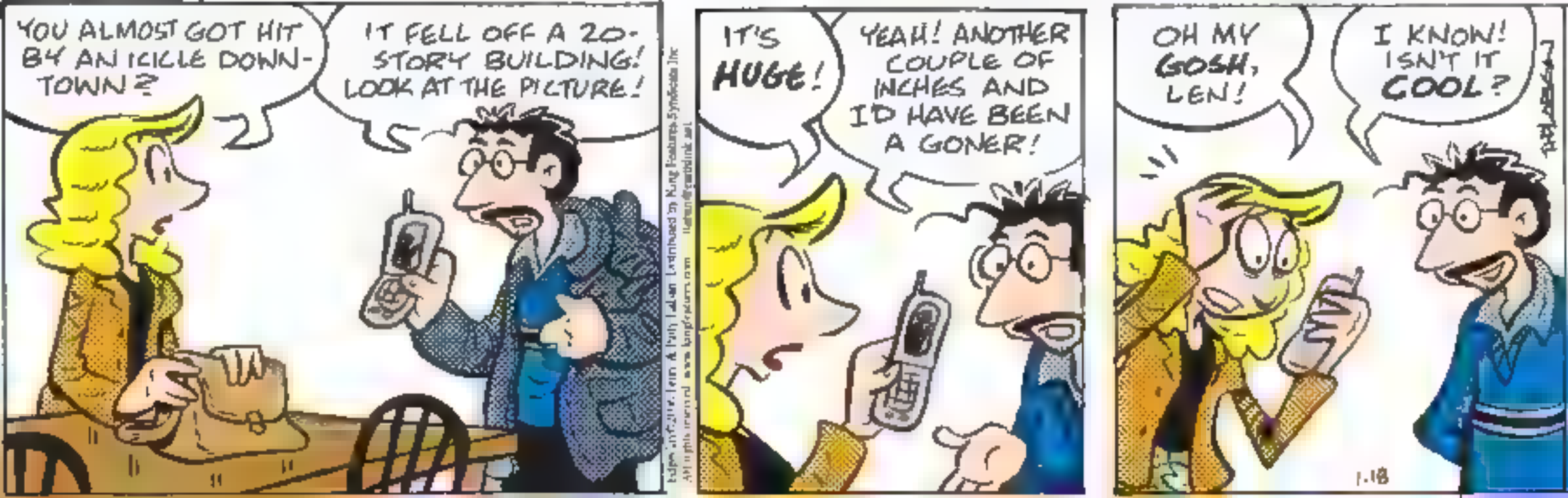
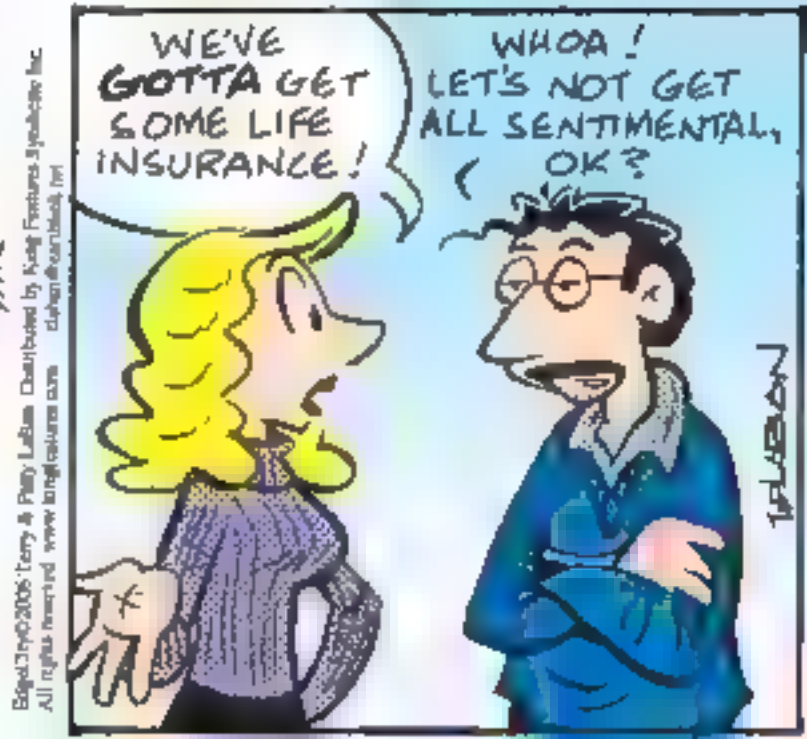

SIR! ARE YOU OK?!
Y-YEAH!
THIS ICICLE COULD'VE KILLED ME!
I KNOW! I SAW IT FALL!
YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
JUST A LITTLE SHOOK UP. I'LL BE OK IN A MINUTE!
MEANWHILE, COULD YOU TAKE A PICTURE?
1-17


YOU ALMOST GOT HIT BY AN ICICLE DOWN-TOWN?
IT FELL OFF A 20-STORY BUILDING! LOOK AT THE PICTURE!
IT'S HUGE!
YEAH! ANOTHER COUPLE OF INCHES AND I'D HAVE BEEN A GONER!
OH MY GOSH, LEN!
I KNOW! ISN'T IT COOL?

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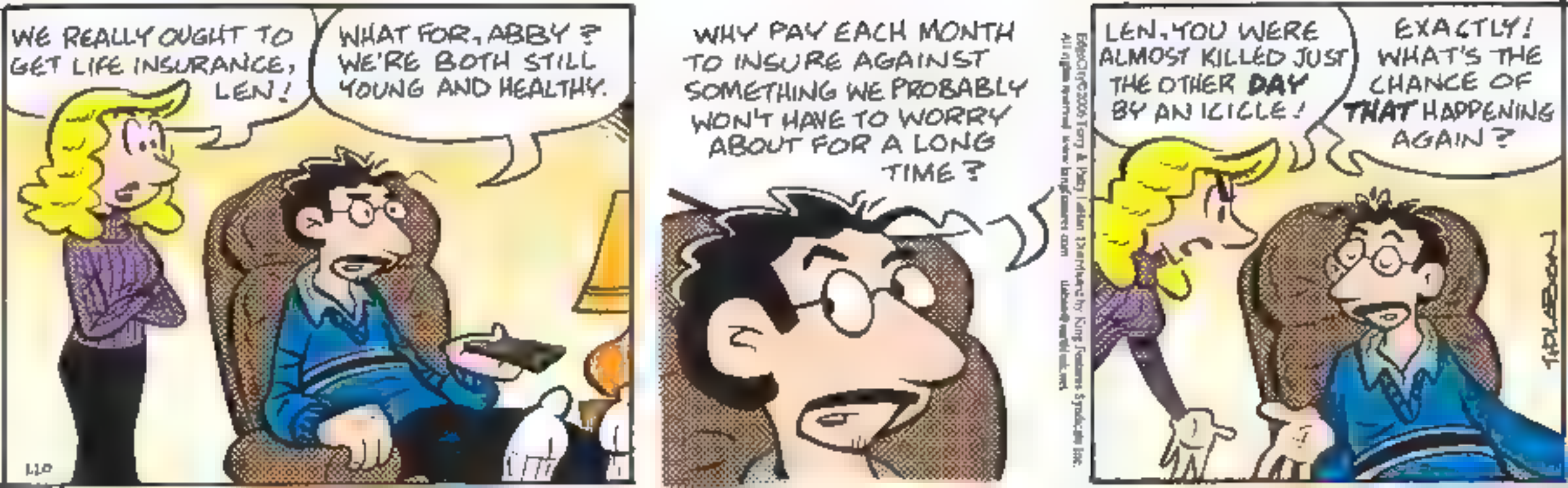
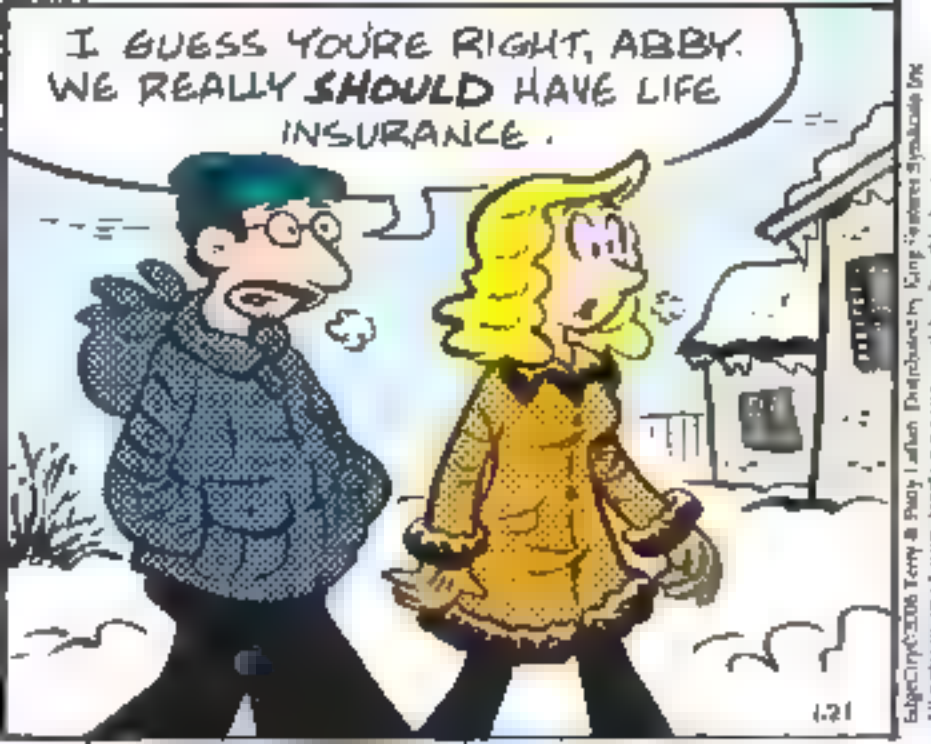

WE REALLY OUGHT TO GET LIFE INSURANCE, LEN!
WHAT FOR, ABBY? WE'RE BOTH STILL YOUNG AND HEALTHY.
WHY PAY EACH MONTH TO INSURE AGAINST SOMETHING WE PROBABLY WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FOR A LONG TIME?
LEN, YOU WERE ALMOST KILLED JUST THE OTHER DAY BY AN ICICLE!
EXACTLY! WHAT'S THE CHANCE OF THAT HAPPENING AGAIN?

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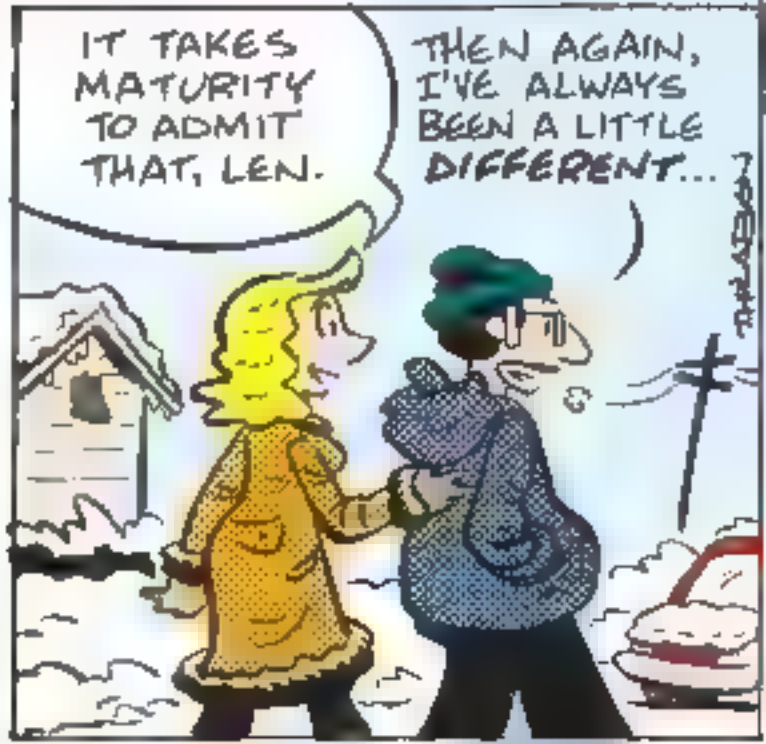
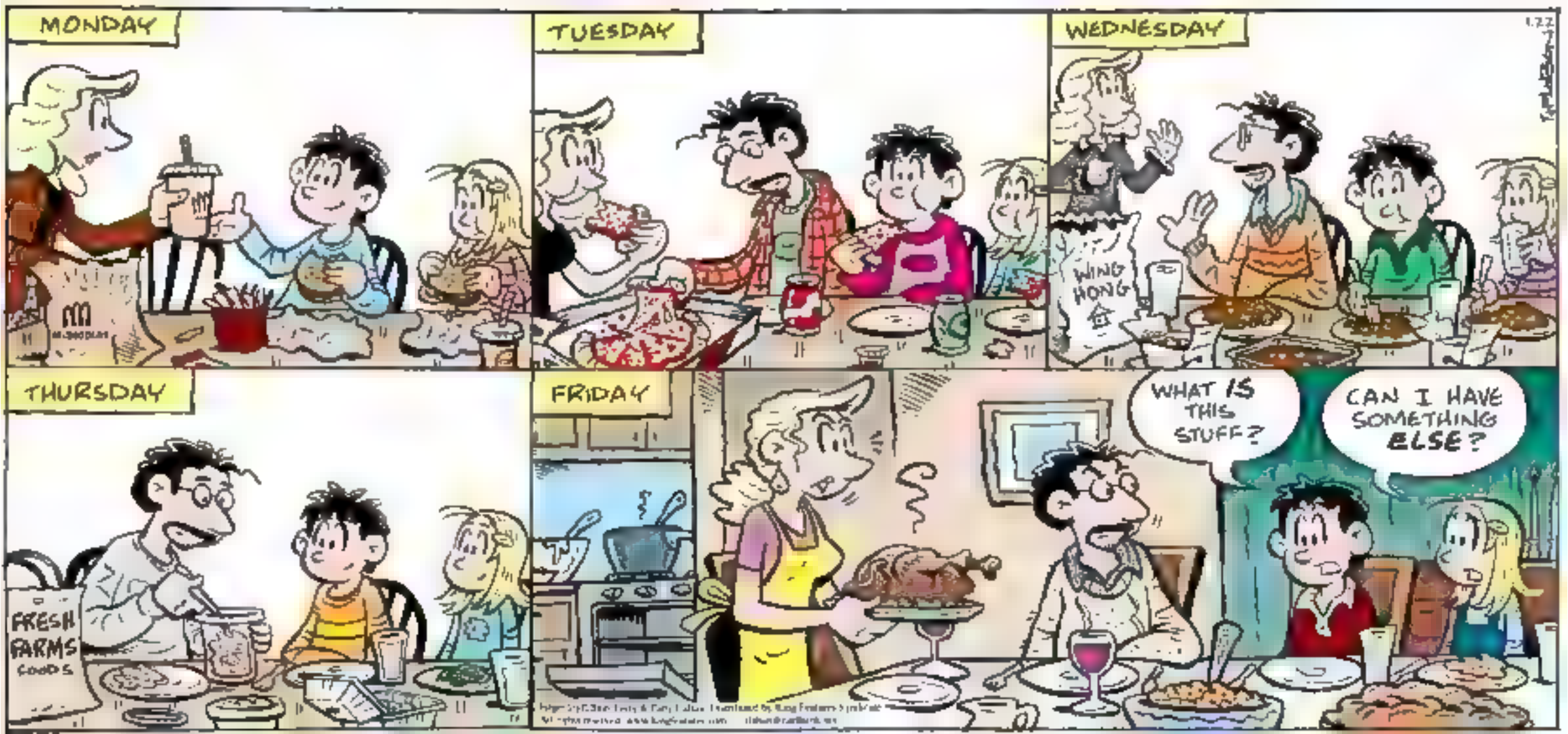
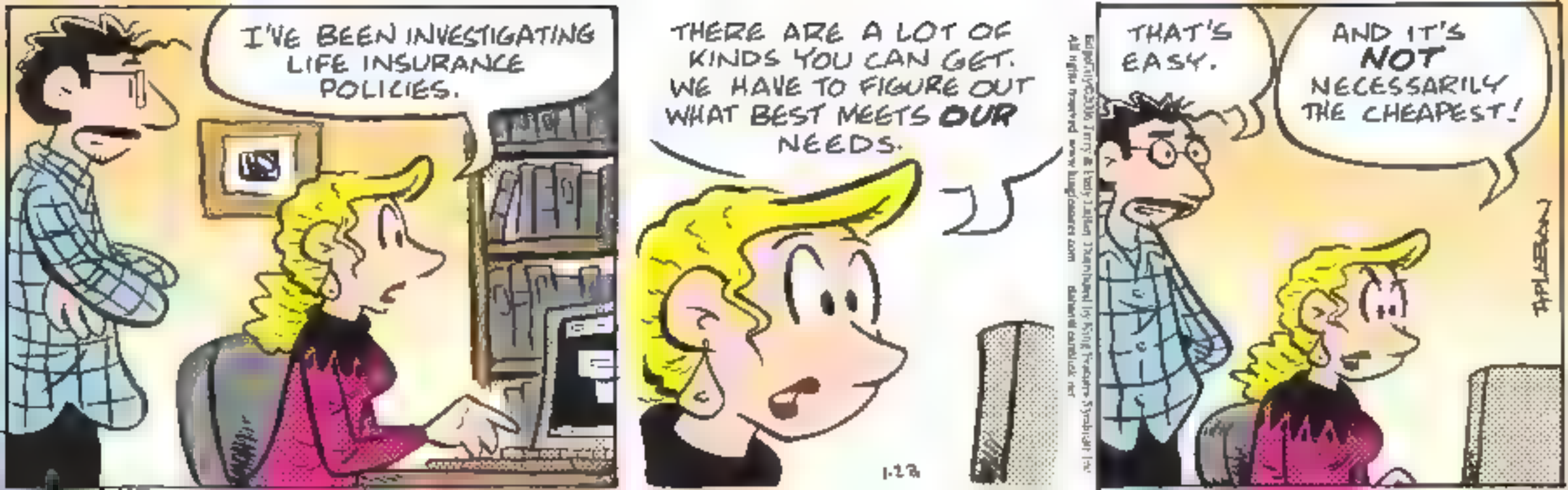
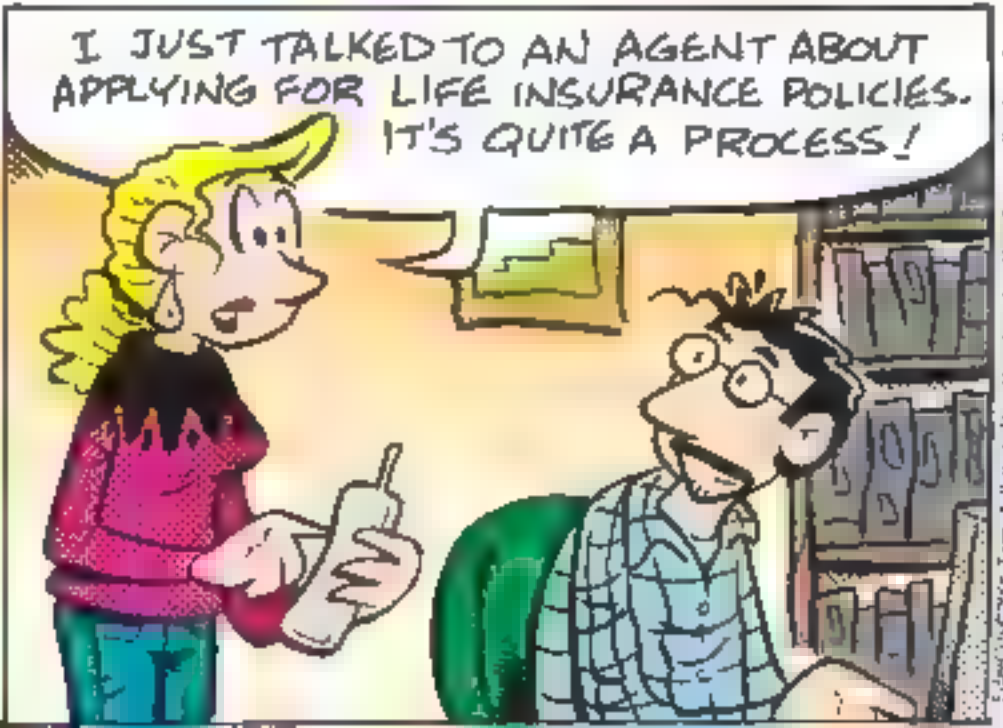
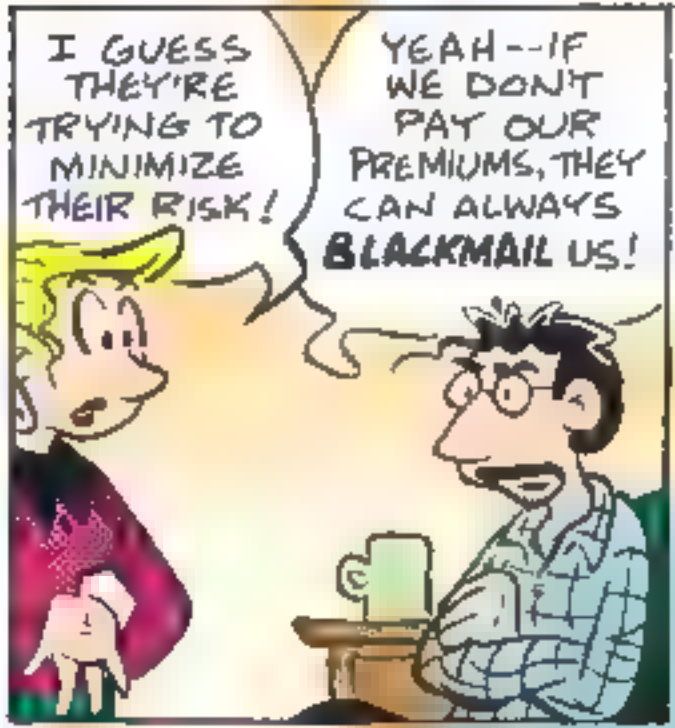


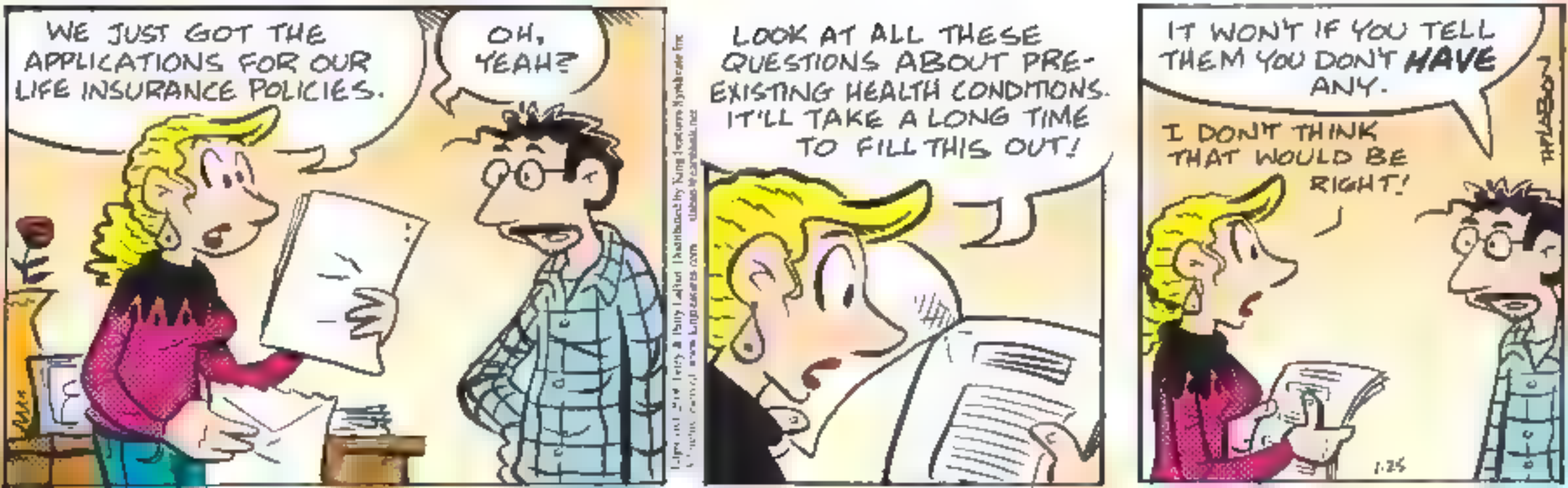

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
WING HONG
THURSDAY
FRESH FARMS FOODS
FRIDAY
WHAT IS THIS STUFF?
CAN I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE?

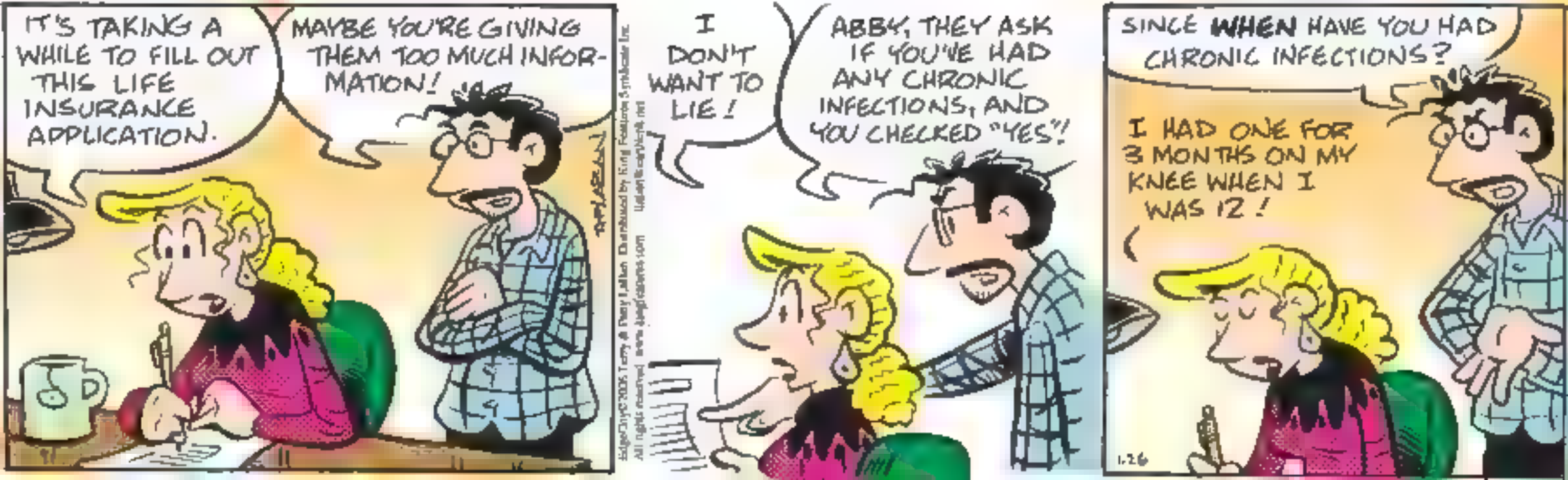

I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES.
THERE ARE A LOT OF KINDS YOU CAN GET. WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT BEST MEETS OUR NEEDS.
THAT'S EASY.
AND IT'S NOT NECESSARILY THE CHEAPEST!


I JUST TALKED TO AN AGENT ABOUT APPLYING FOR LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES. IT'S QUITE A PROCESS!

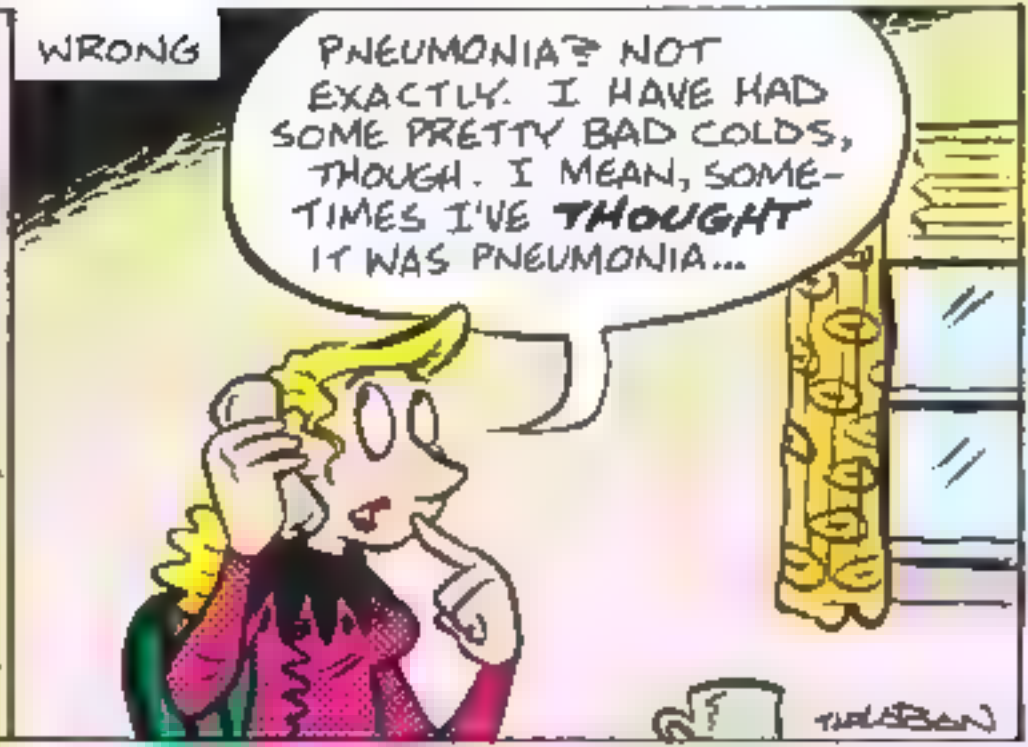
WE HAVE TO LET THEM INTERVIEW US, GIVE US A PHYSICAL, AND TALK TO OUR FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS!
WHY DO THEY HAVE TO BE SO INTRUSVE?

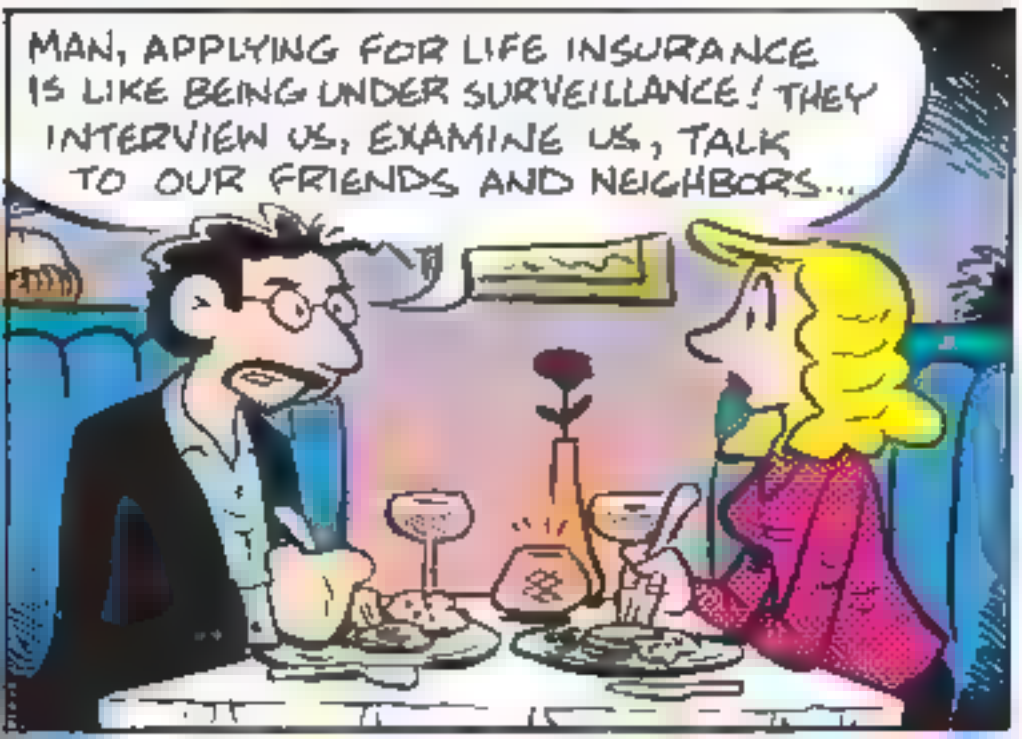

I GUESS THEY'RE TRYING TO MINIMIZE THEIR RISK!
YEAH--IF WE DON'T PAY OUR PREMIUMS, THEY CAN ALWAYS BLACKMAIL US!

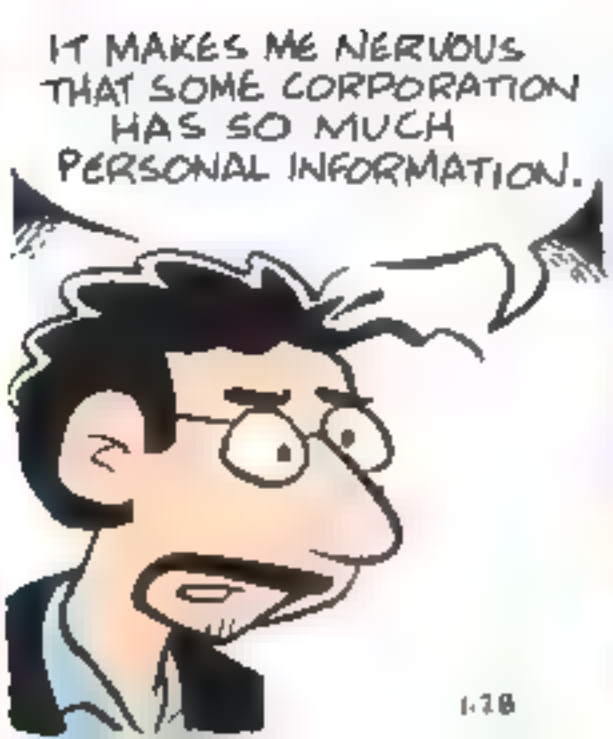

WE JUST GOT THE APPLICATIONS FOR OUR LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES.
OH, YEAH?
LOOK AT ALL THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS. IT'LL TAKE A LONG TIME TO FILL THIS OUT!
IT WON'T IF YOU TELL THEM YOU DON'T HAVE ANY.
I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE RIGHT!


IT'S TAKING A WHILE TO FILL OUT THIS LIFE INSURANCE APPLICATION.
MAYBE YOU'RE GIVING THEM TOO MUCH INFORMATION!
I DON'T WANT TO LIE!
ABBY, THEY ASK IF YOU'VE HAD ANY CHRONIC INFECTIONS, AND YOU CHECKED "YES"!
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU HAD CHRONIC INFECTIONS?
I HAD ONE FOR 3 MONTHS ON MY KNEE WHEN I WAS 12!
1.26

# DOING the LIFE INSURANCE INTERVIEW



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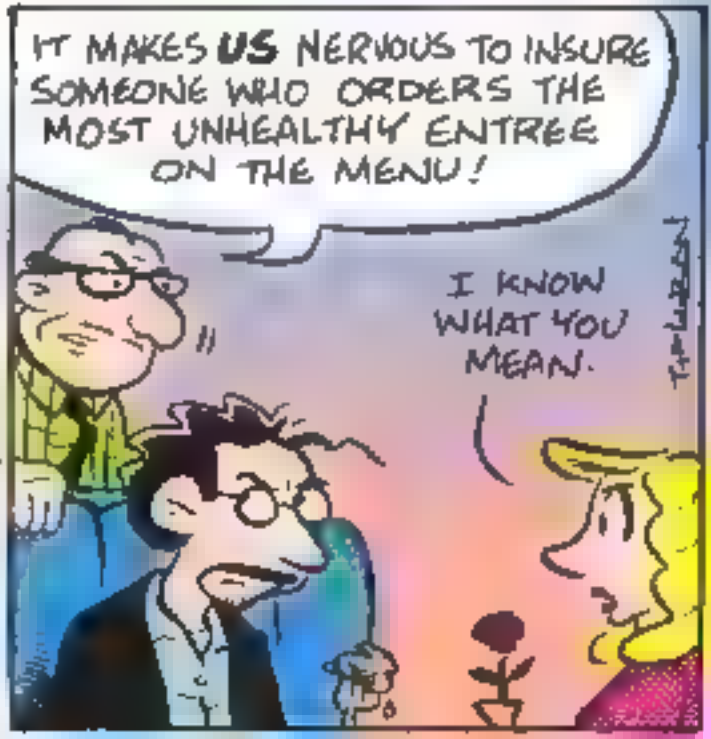
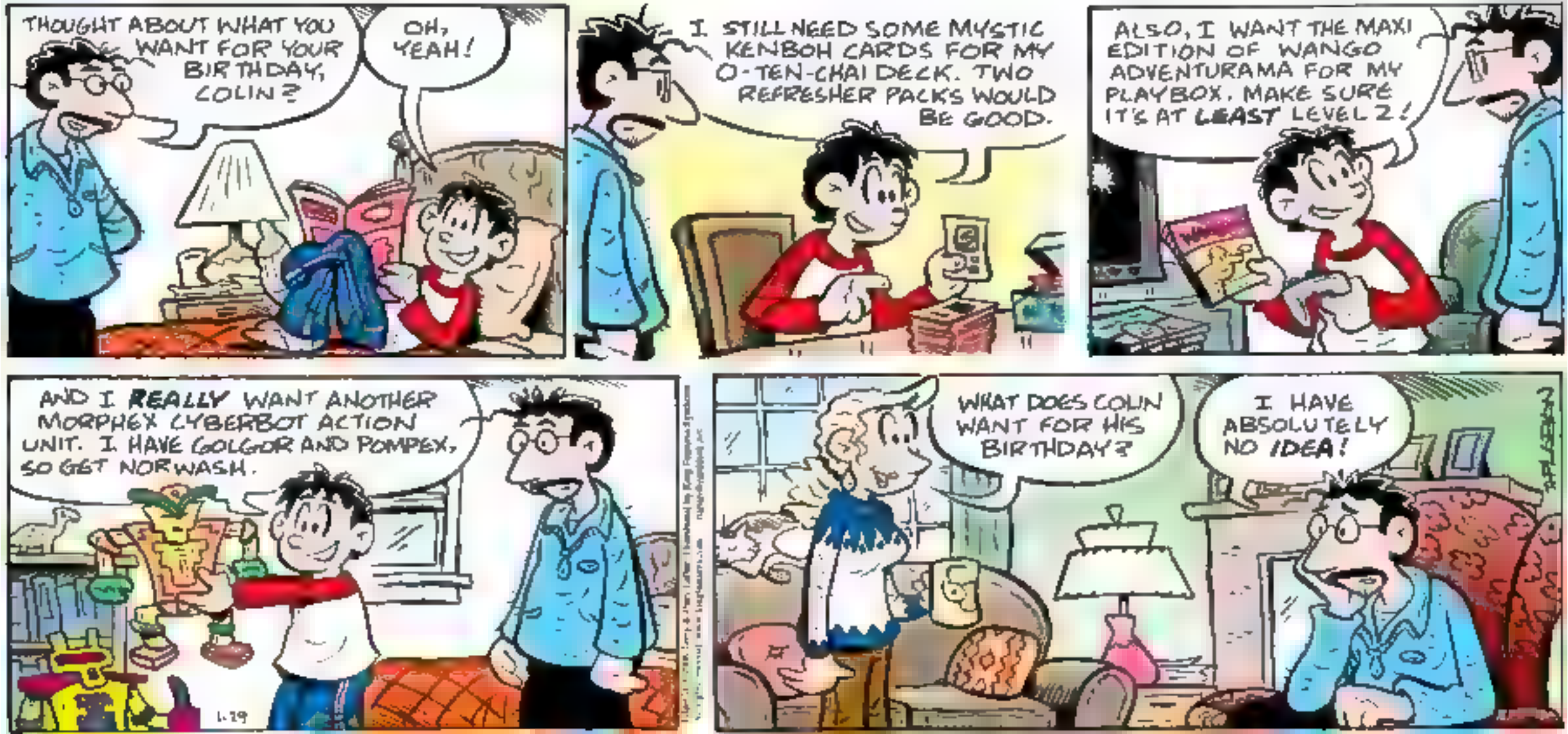
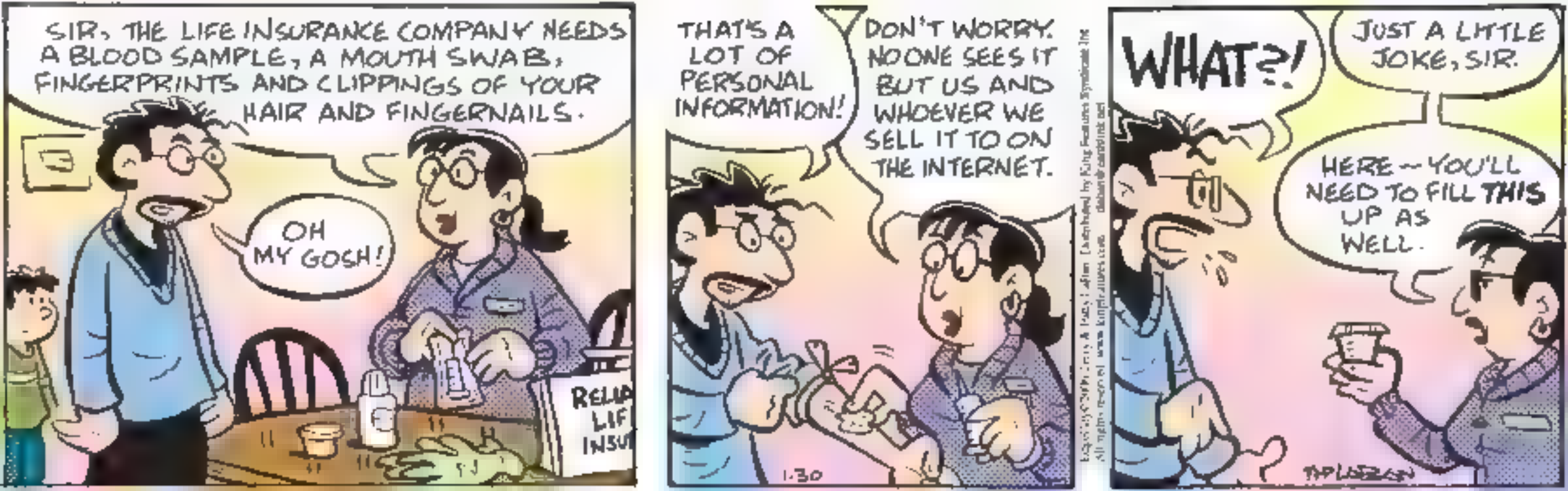
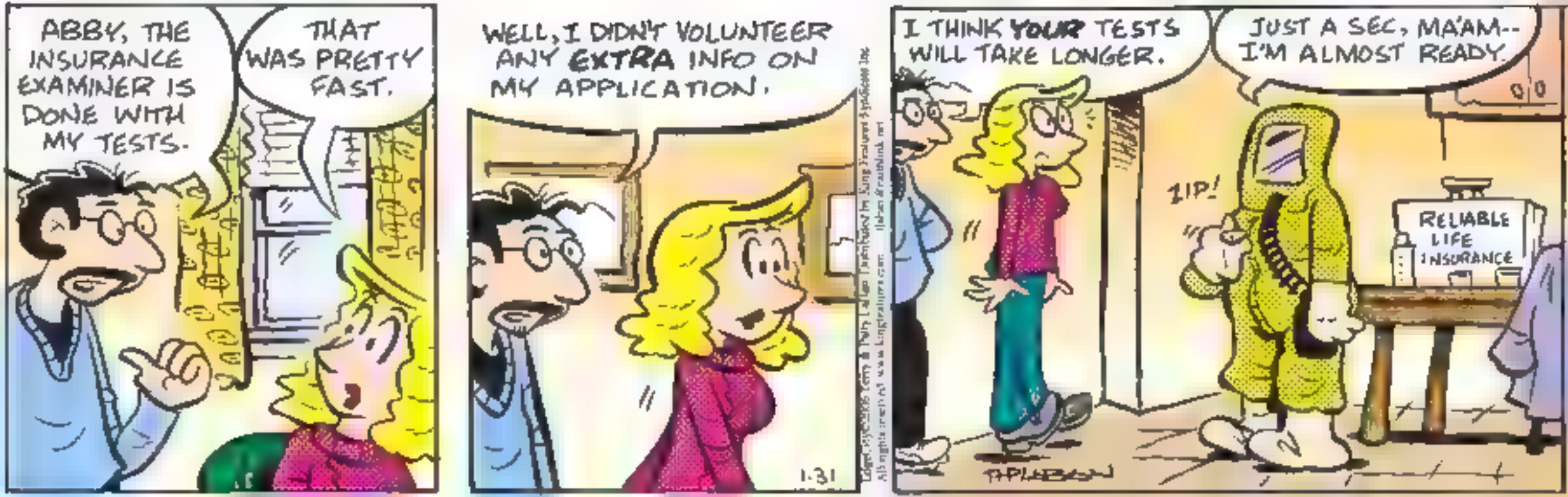
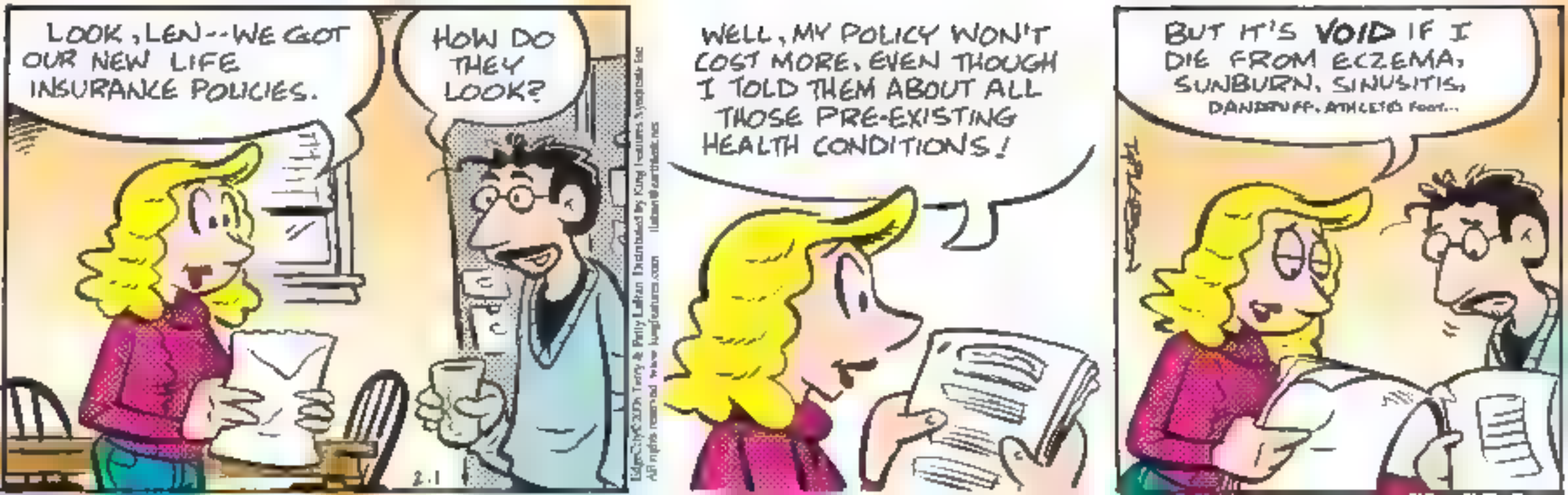
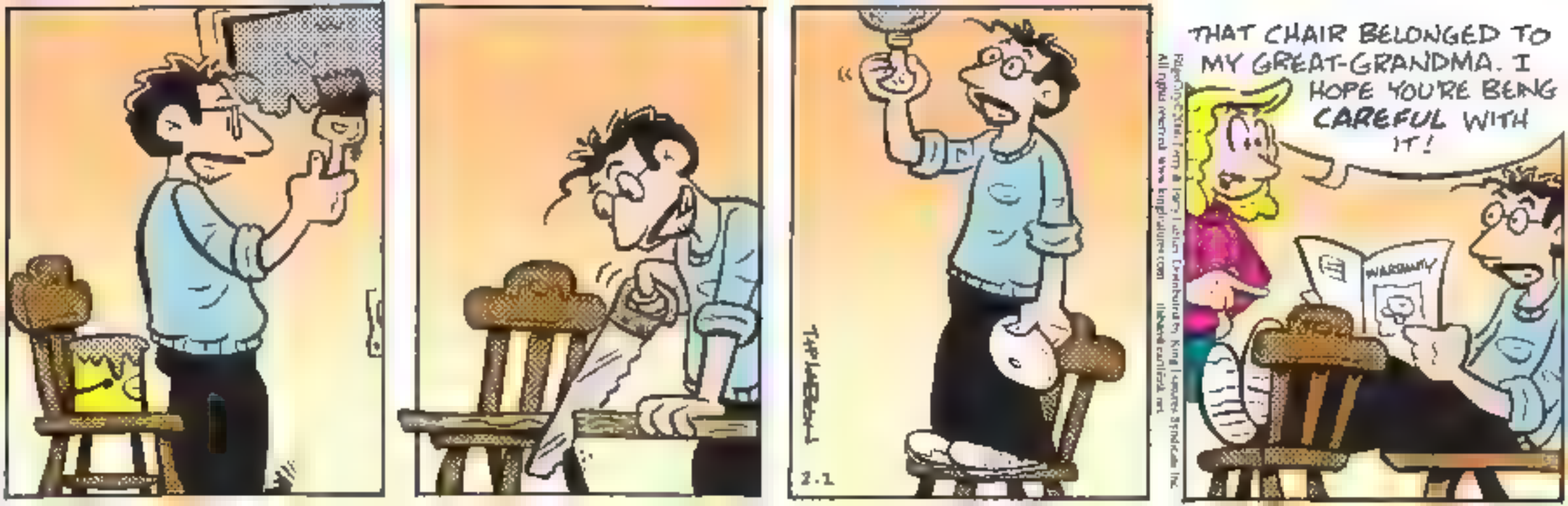


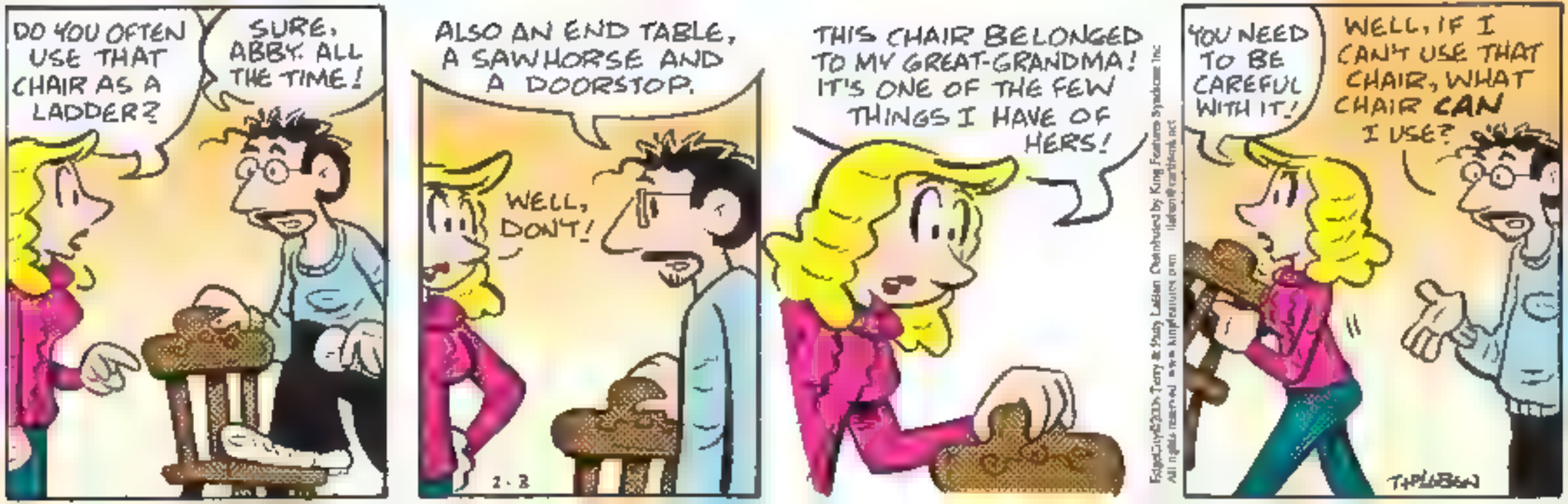

THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY, COLIN?
OH, YEAH!
I STILL NEED SOME MYSTIC KENBOH CARDS FOR MY O-TEN-CHAI DECK. TWO REFRESHER PACKS WOULD BE GOOD.
ALSO, I WANT THE MAXI EDITION OF WANGO ADVENTURAMA FOR MY PLAYBOX. MAKE SURE IT'S AT LEAST LEVEL 2!
AND I REALLY WANT ANOTHER MORPHEX CYBERBOT ACTION UNIT. I HAVE GOLGOR AND POMPEX, SO GET NORWASH.
1-29
WHAT DOES COLIN WANT FOR HIS BIRTHDAY?
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA!

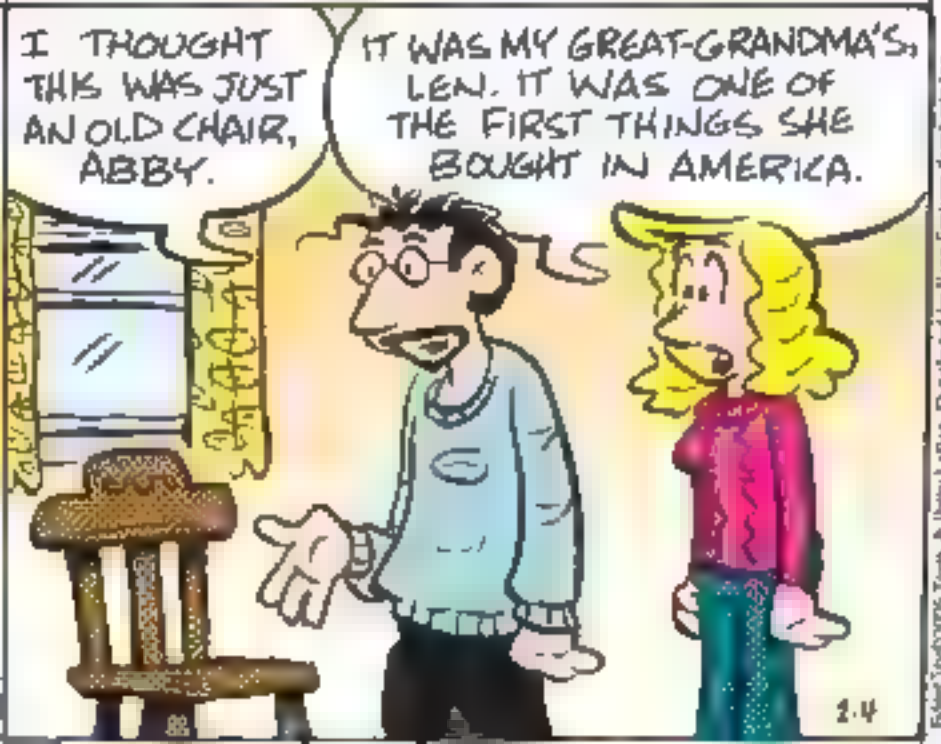

SIR, THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY NEEDS A BLOOD SAMPLE, A MOUTH SWAB, FINGERPRINTS AND CLIPPINGS OF YOUR HAIR AND FINGERNAILS.
OH MY GOSH!
THAT'S A LOT OF PERSONAL INFORMATION!
DON'T WORRY. NO ONE SEES IT BUT US AND WHOEVER WE SELL IT TO ON THE INTERNET.
WHAT?!
JUST A LITTLE JOKE, SIR.
HERE – YOU'LL NEED TO FILL THIS UP AS WELL.

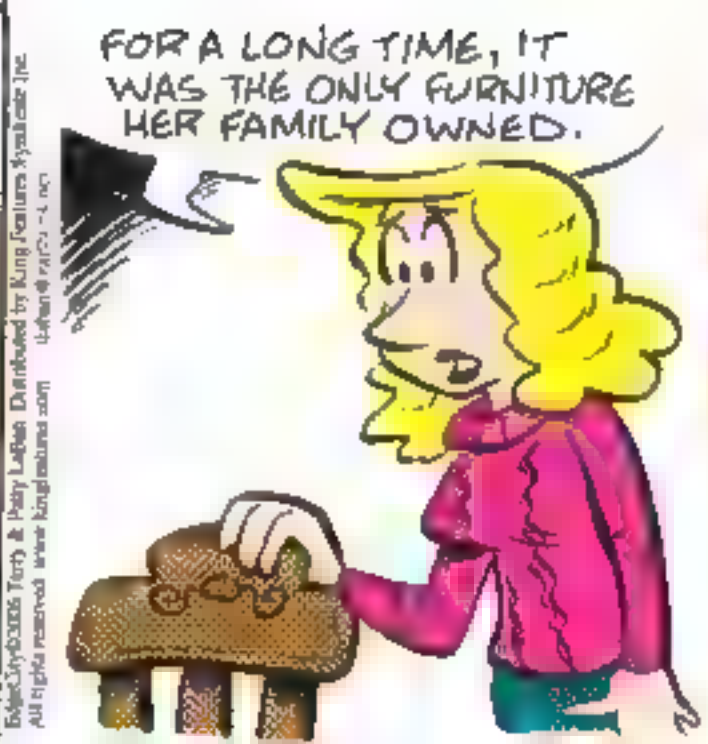

ABBY, THE INSURANCE EXAMINER IS DONE WITH MY TESTS.
THAT WAS PRETTY FAST.
WELL, I DIDN'T VOLUNTEER ANY EXTRA INFO ON MY APPLICATION.
1-31
I THINK YOUR TESTS WILL TAKE LONGER.
JUST A SEC, MA'AM-- I'M ALMOST READY.
ZIP!
RELIABLE LIFE INSURANCE

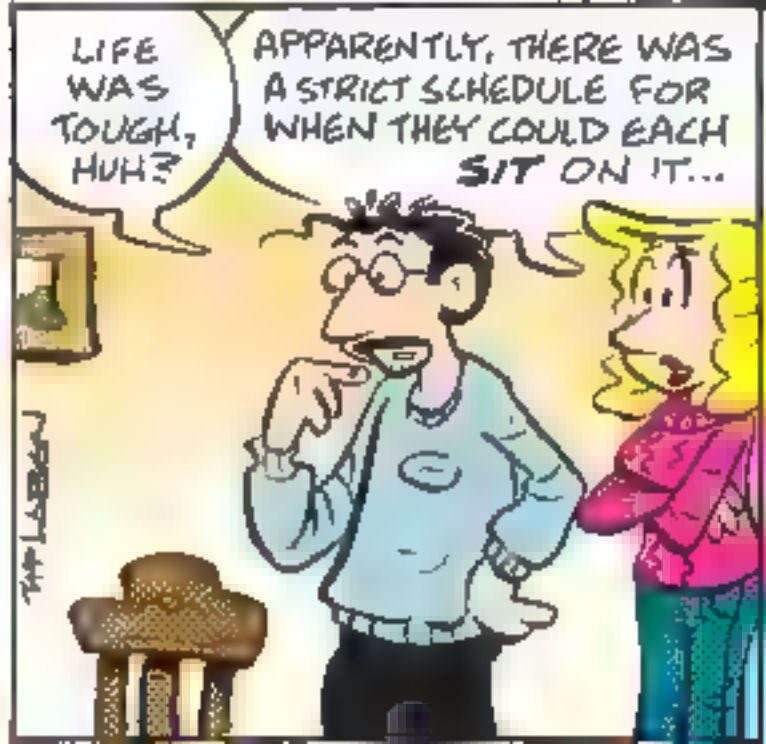

LOOK, LEN--WE GOT OUR NEW LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES.
HOW DO THEY LOOK?
WELL, MY POLICY WON'T COST MORE, EVEN THOUGH I TOLD THEM ABOUT ALL THOSE PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS!
BUT IT'S VOID IF I DIE FROM ECZEMA, SUNBURN, SINUSITIS, DANDRUFF, ATHLETE'S FOOT...

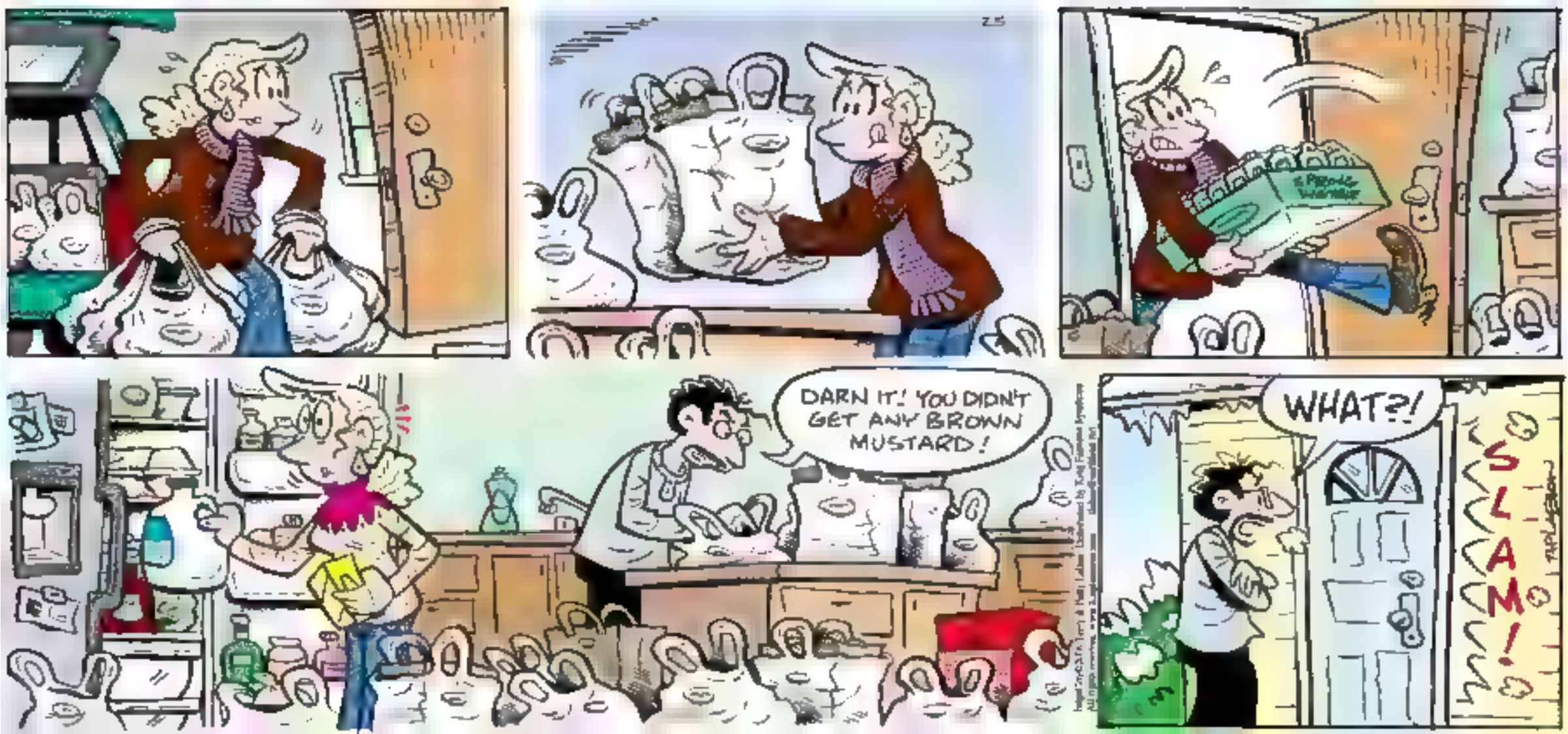

THAT CHAIR BELONGED TO MY GREAT-GRANDMA. I HOPE YOU'RE BEING CAREFUL WITH IT!
WARRANTY

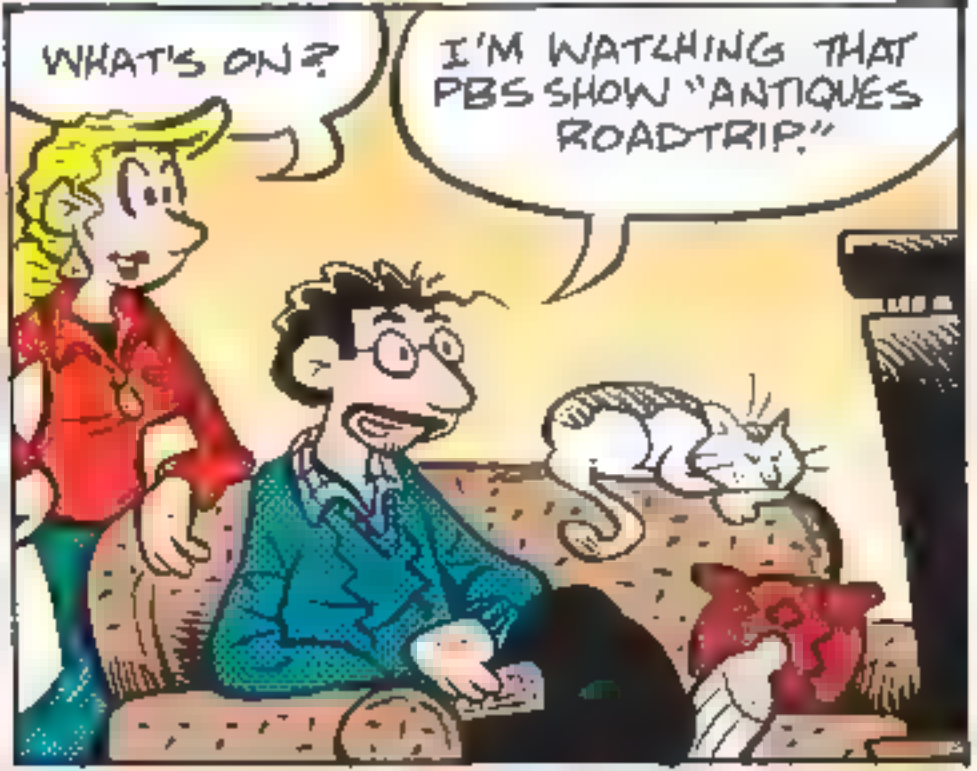

DO YOU OFTEN USE THAT CHAIR AS A LADDER?
SURE, ABBY. ALL THE TIME!
ALSO AN END TABLE, A SAWHORSE AND A DOORSTOP.
WELL, DON'T!
2-3
THIS CHAIR BELONGED TO MY GREAT-GRANDMA! IT'S ONE OF THE FEW THINGS I HAVE OF HERS!
YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL WITH IT!
WELL, IF I CAN'T USE THAT CHAIR, WHAT CHAIR CAN I USE?
THPLABEN


I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST AN OLD CHAIR, ABBY.
IT WAS MY GREAT-GRANDMA'S, LEN. IT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS SHE BOUGHT IN AMERICA.
2-4


FOR A LONG TIME, IT WAS THE ONLY FURNITURE HER FAMILY OWNED.


LIFE WAS TOUGH, HUH?
APPARENTLY, THERE WAS A STRICT SCHEDULE FOR WHEN THEY COULD EACH SIT ON IT...


DARN IT! YOU DIDN'T GET ANY BROWN MUSTARD!
WHAT?!
SLAM!



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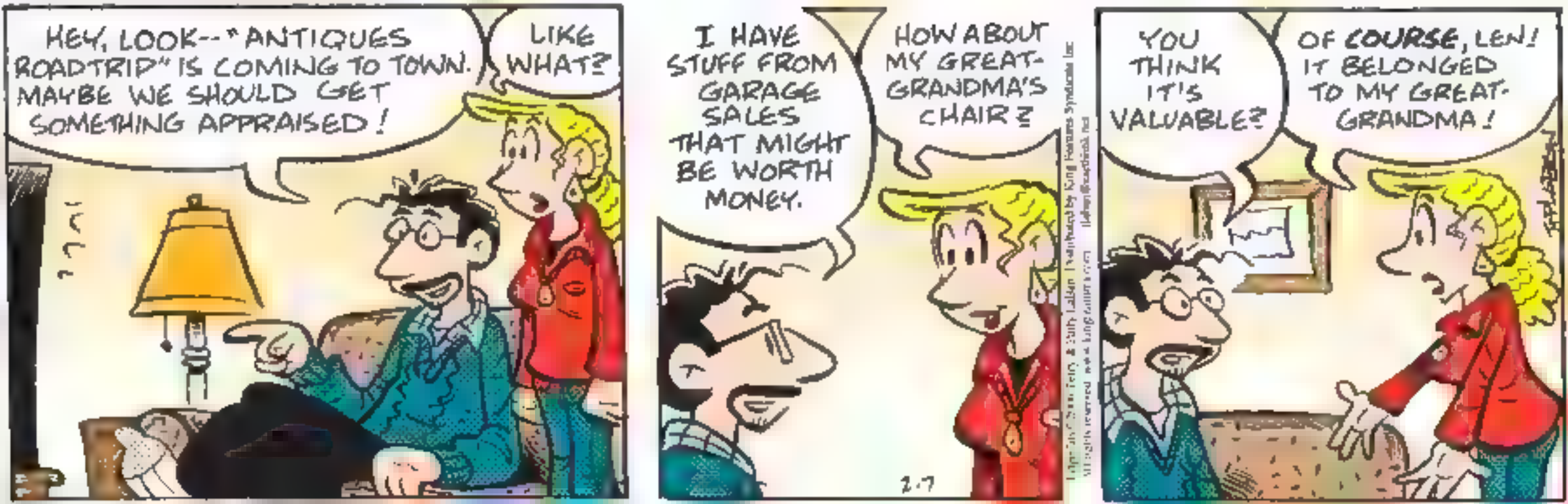
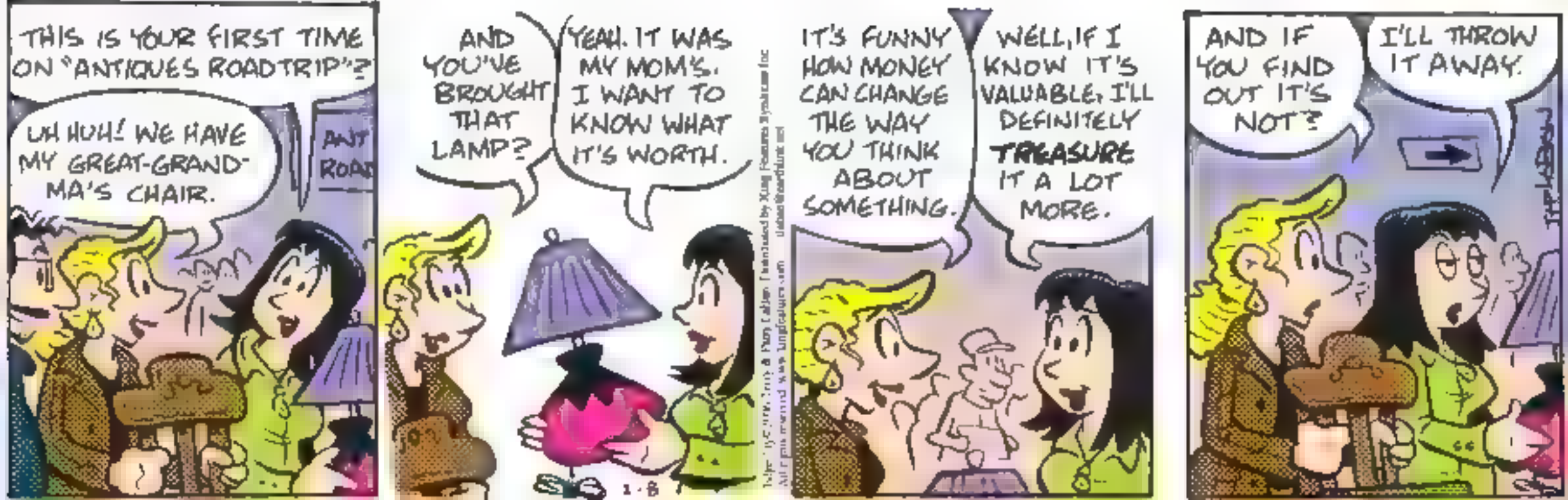
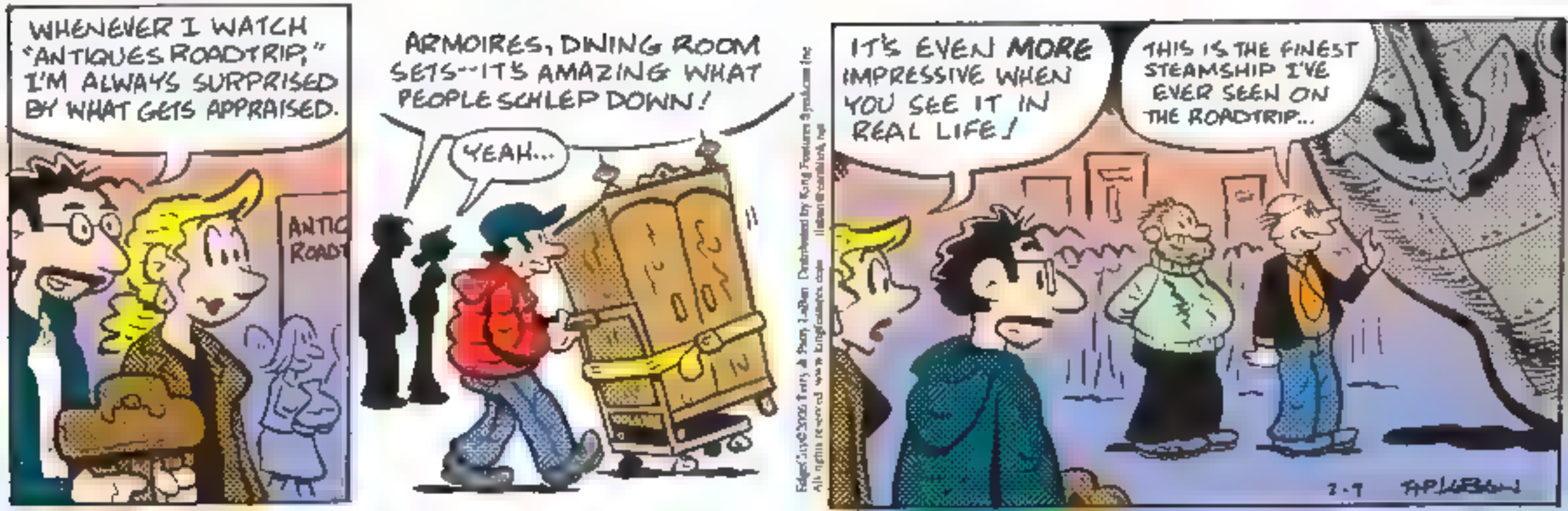
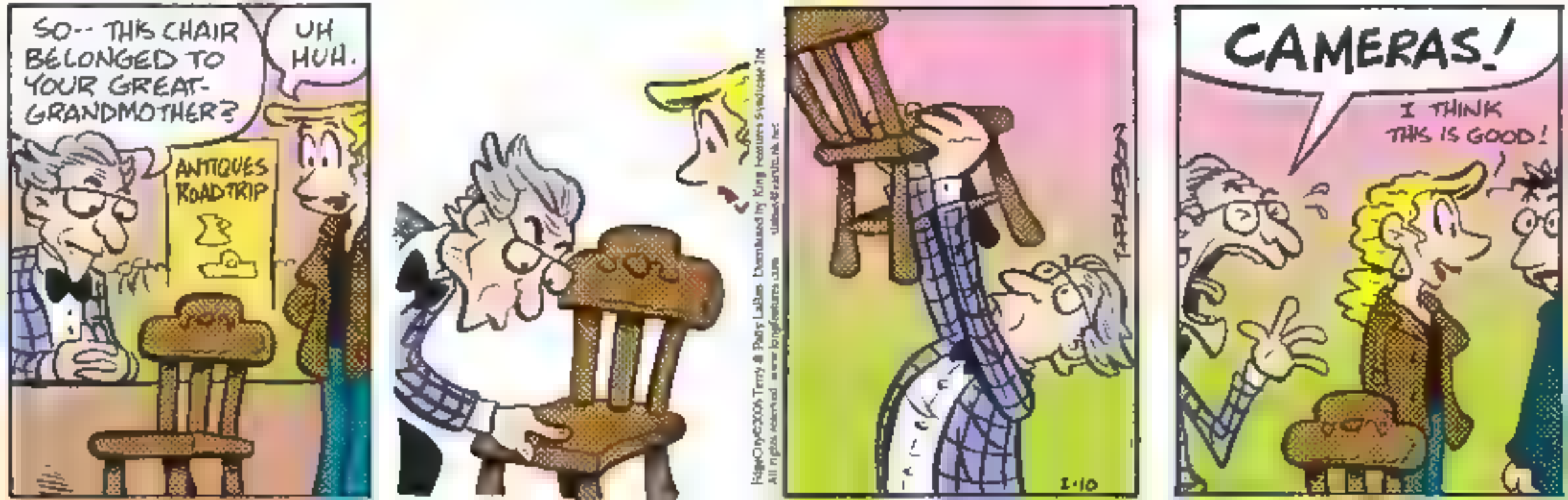

HEY, LOOK--"ANTIQUES ROADTRIP" IS COMING TO TOWN. MAYBE WE SHOULD GET SOMETHING APPRAISED!
LIKE WHAT?
I HAVE STUFF FROM GARAGE SALES THAT MIGHT BE WORTH MONEY.
HOW ABOUT MY GREAT-GRANDMA'S CHAIR?
YOU THINK IT'S VALUABLE?
OF COURSE, LEN! IT BELONGED TO MY GREAT-GRANDMA!


THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME ON "ANTIQUES ROADTRIP"?
UH HUH! WE HAVE MY GREAT-GRANDMA'S CHAIR.
ANT ROAD
AND YOU'VE BROUGHT THAT LAMP?
YEAH. IT WAS MY MOM'S. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT'S WORTH.
IT'S FUNNY HOW MONEY CAN CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT SOMETHING.
WELL, IF I KNOW IT'S VALUABLE, I'LL DEFINITELY TREASURE IT A LOT MORE.
AND IF YOU FIND OUT IT'S NOT?
I'LL THROW IT AWAY.


WHENEVER I WATCH "ANTIQUES ROADTRIP," I'M ALWAYS SURPRISED BY WHAT GETS APPRAISED.
ANTIQ ROADT
ARMOIRES, DINING ROOM SETS--IT'S AMAZING WHAT PEOPLE SCHLEP DOWN!
YEAH...
IT'S EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE WHEN YOU SEE IT IN REAL LIFE!
THIS IS THE FINEST STEAMSHIP I'VE EVER SEEN ON THE ROADTRIP...

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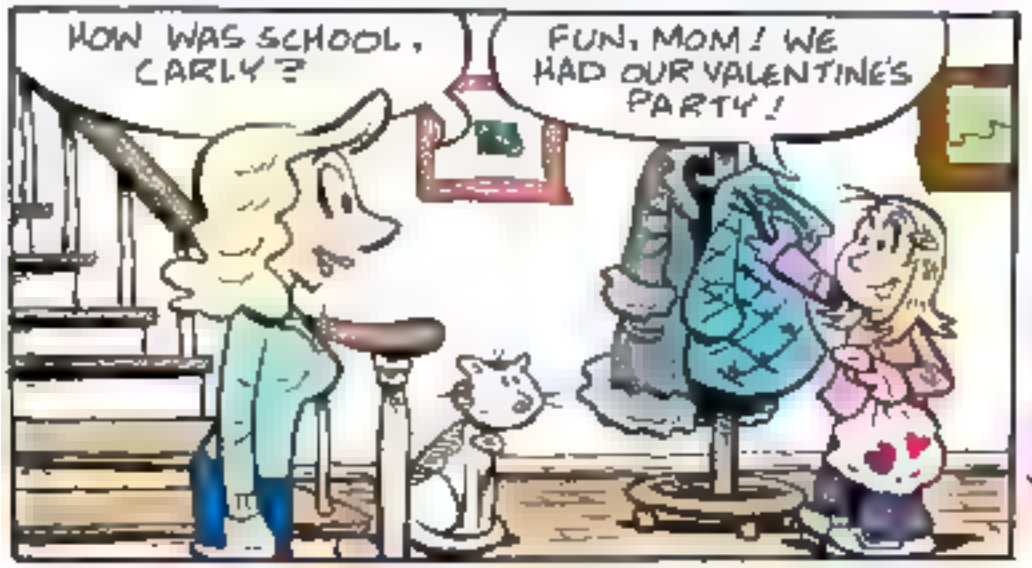
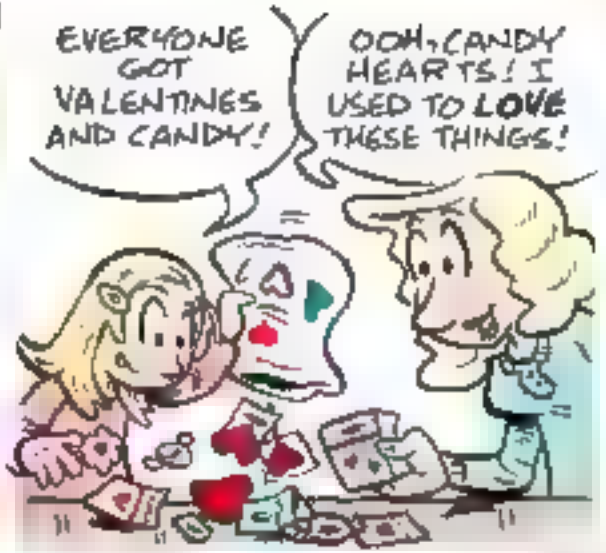
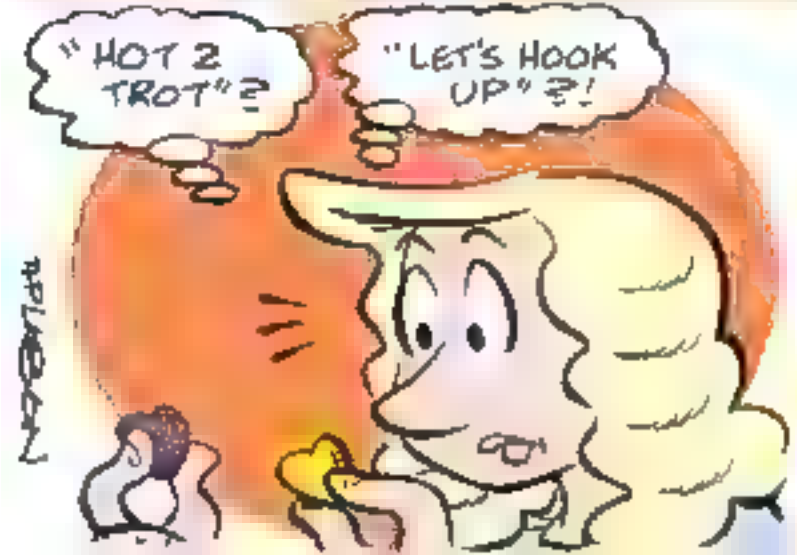
NOW, ABBY... HOW MUCH DID YOU PAY FOR THIS CHAIR?
NOTHING. I GOT IT FROM MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER.
ANTIQUES ROADTRIP
BUT THEY WERE VERY POOR. SHE PROBABLY GOT IT FROM A JUNKMAN FOR LESS THAN A DOLLAR.
LESS THAN A DOLLAR? HA HA HA...
... HA...
SOB!
SHE GOT A GOOD DEAL, RIGHT?

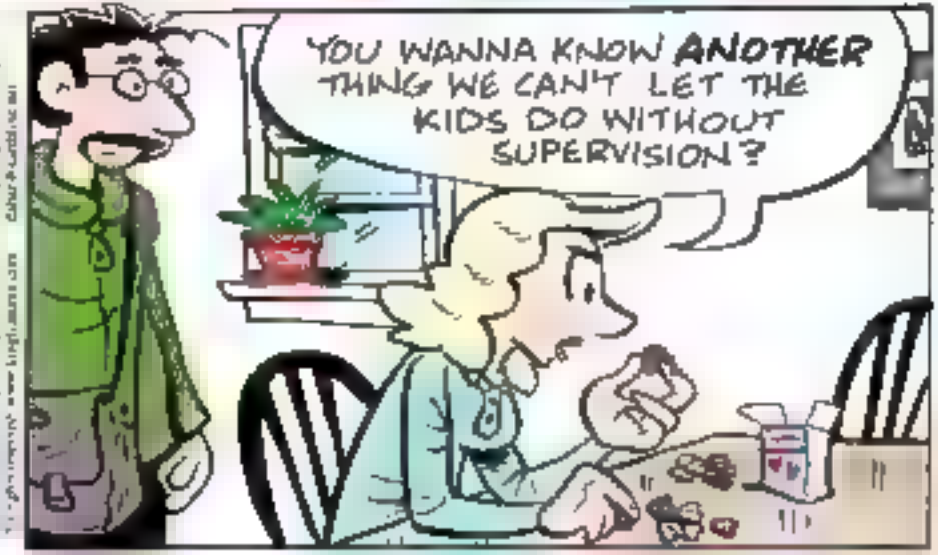

HOW WAS SCHOOL, CARLY?
FUN, MOM! WE HAD OUR VALENTINE'S PARTY!

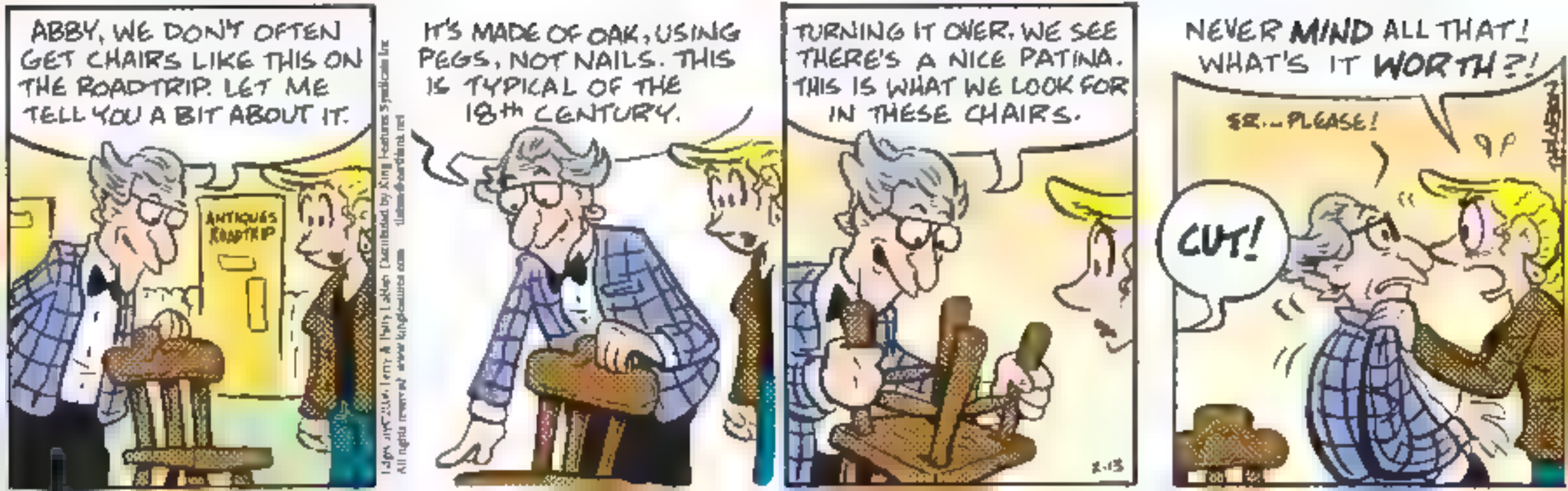

EVERYONE GOT VALENTINES AND CANDY!
OOH, CANDY HEARTS! I USED TO LOVE THESE THINGS!

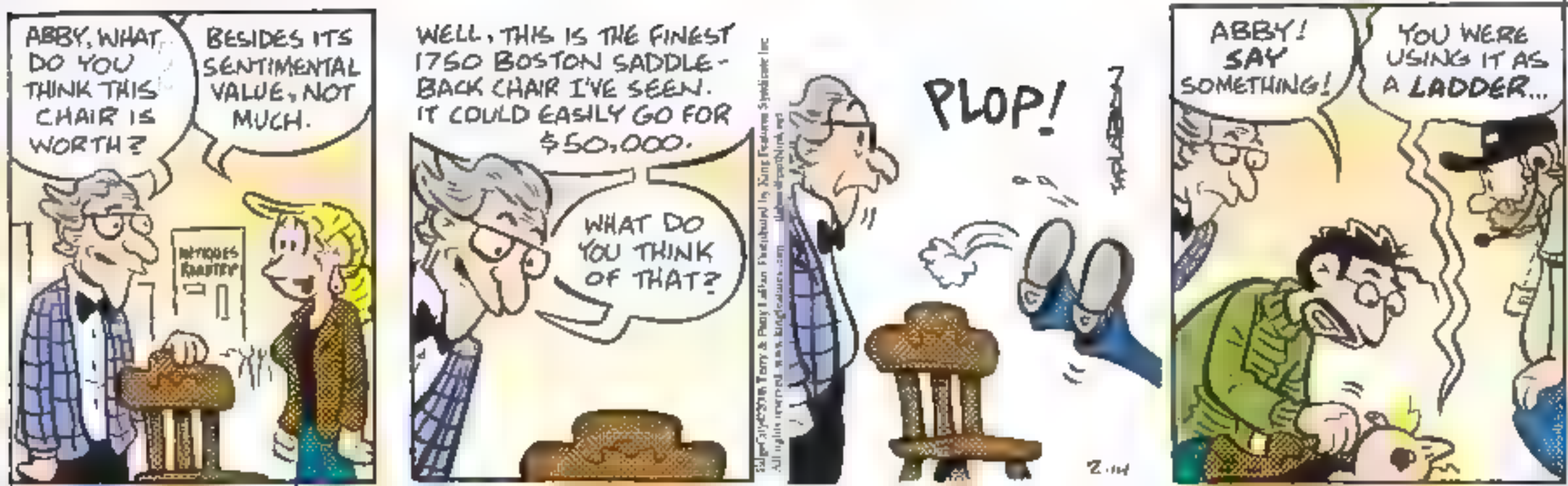
"BOOTY QUEEN"?
"FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS"?

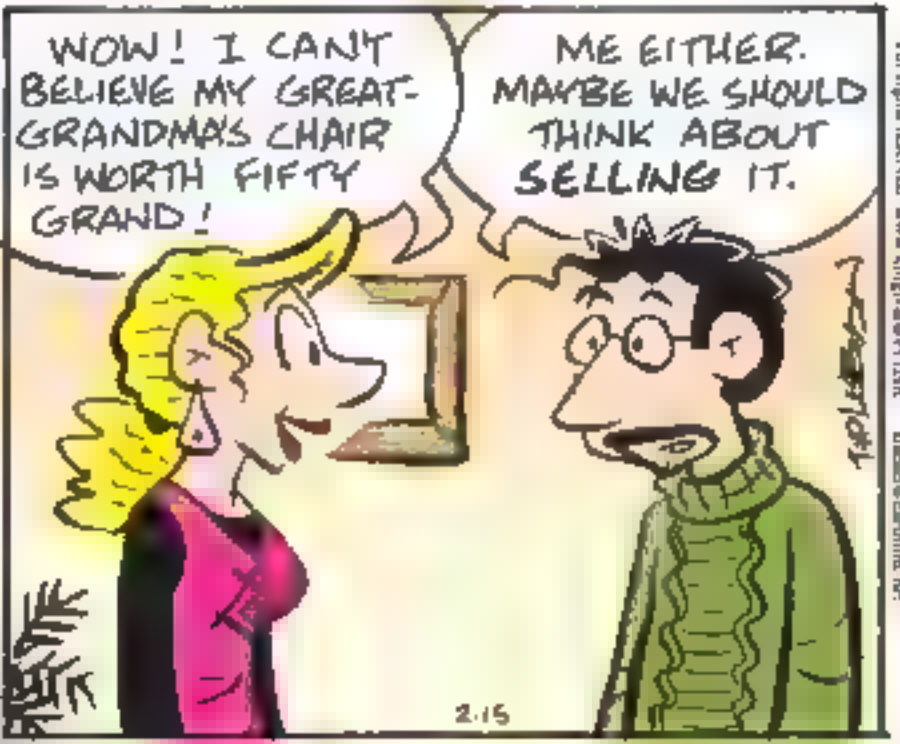

"HOT 2 TROT"?
"LET'S HOOK UP"?!

ER... Y'KNOW WHAT, HONEY? I'D LIKE TO LOOK THESE OVER BEFORE YOU EAT THEM!
?
2.12


YOU WANNA KNOW ANOTHER THING WE CAN'T LET THE KIDS DO WITHOUT SUPERVISION?


ABBY, WE DON'T OFTEN GET CHAIRS LIKE THIS ON THE ROADTRIP. LET ME TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT IT.
ANTIQUES ROADTRIP
IT'S MADE OF OAK, USING PEGS, NOT NAILS. THIS IS TYPICAL OF THE 18th CENTURY.
TURNING IT OVER, WE SEE THERE'S A NICE PATINA. THIS IS WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN THESE CHAIRS.
NEVER MIND ALL THAT! WHAT'S IT WORTH?!
SIR...PLEASE!
CUT!


ABBY, WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS CHAIR IS WORTH?
BESIDES ITS SENTIMENTAL VALUE, NOT MUCH.
ANTIQUES EMPORIUM
WELL, THIS IS THE FINEST 1750 BOSTON SADDLE-BACK CHAIR I'VE SEEN. IT COULD EASILY GO FOR $50,000.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
PLOP!
ABBY! SAY SOMETHING!
YOU WERE USING IT AS A LADDER...

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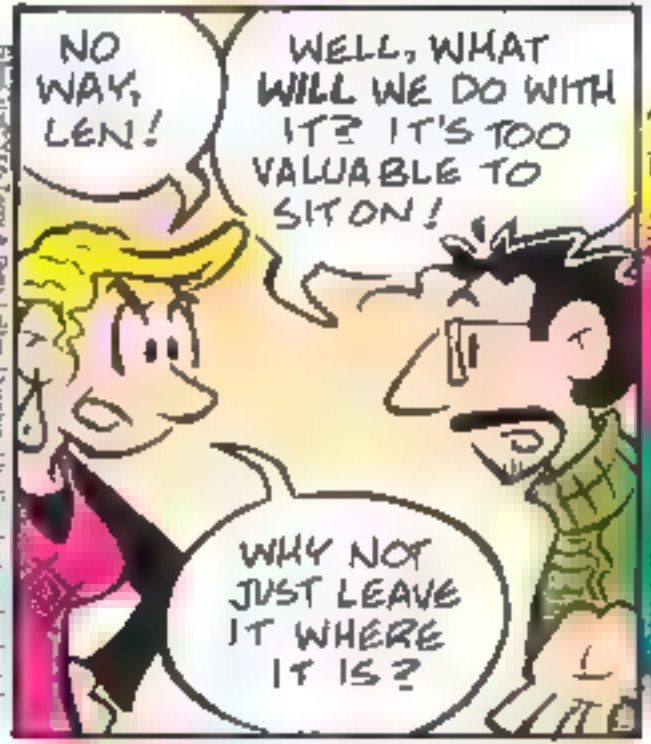
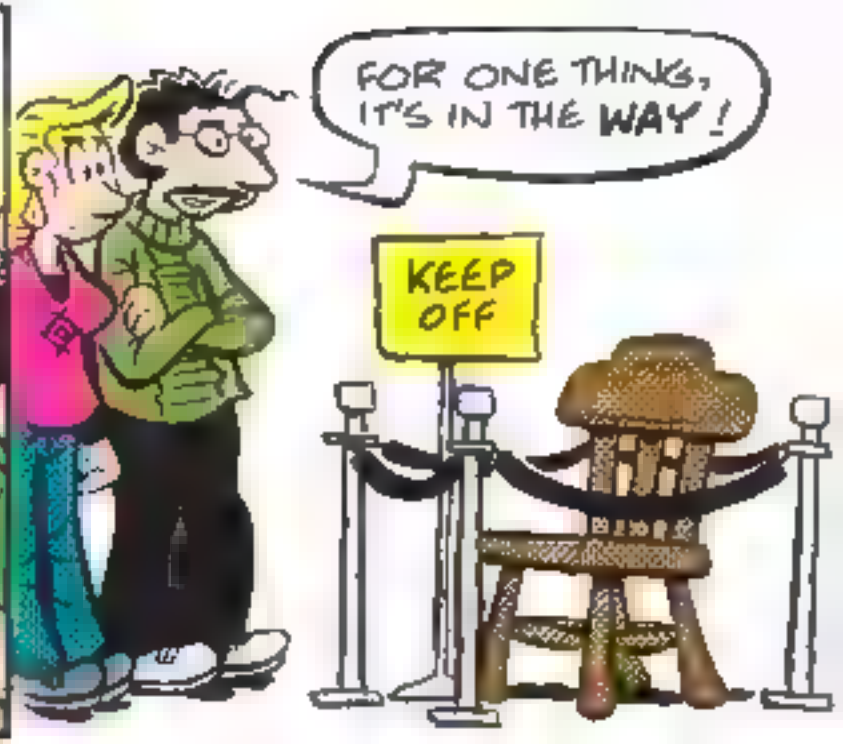
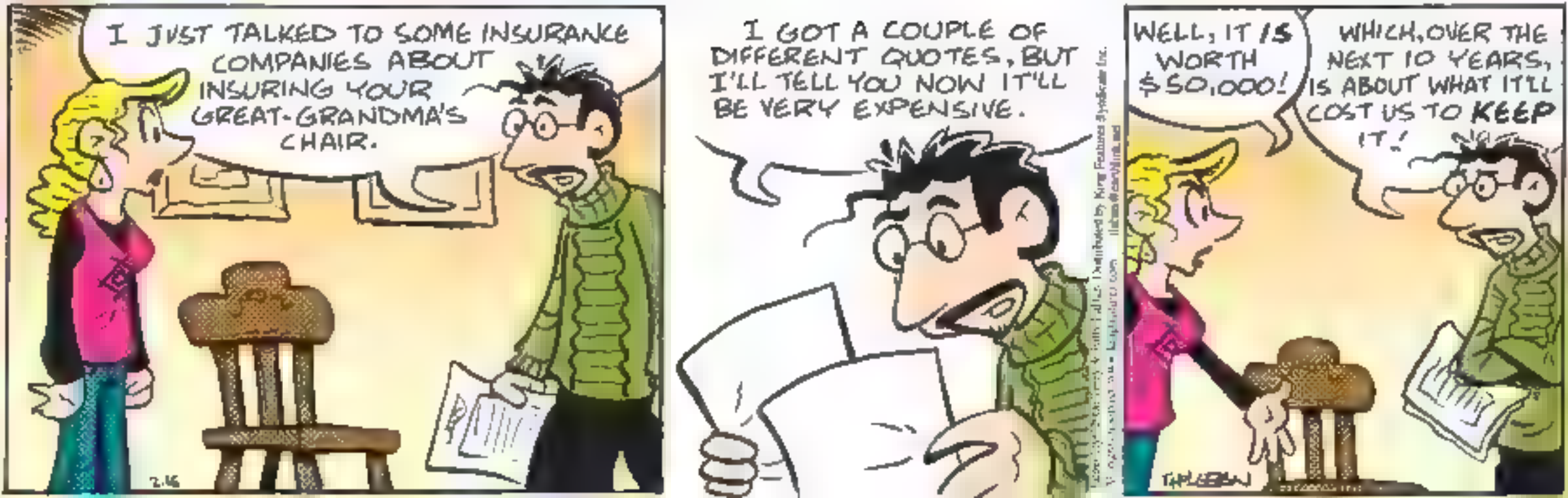
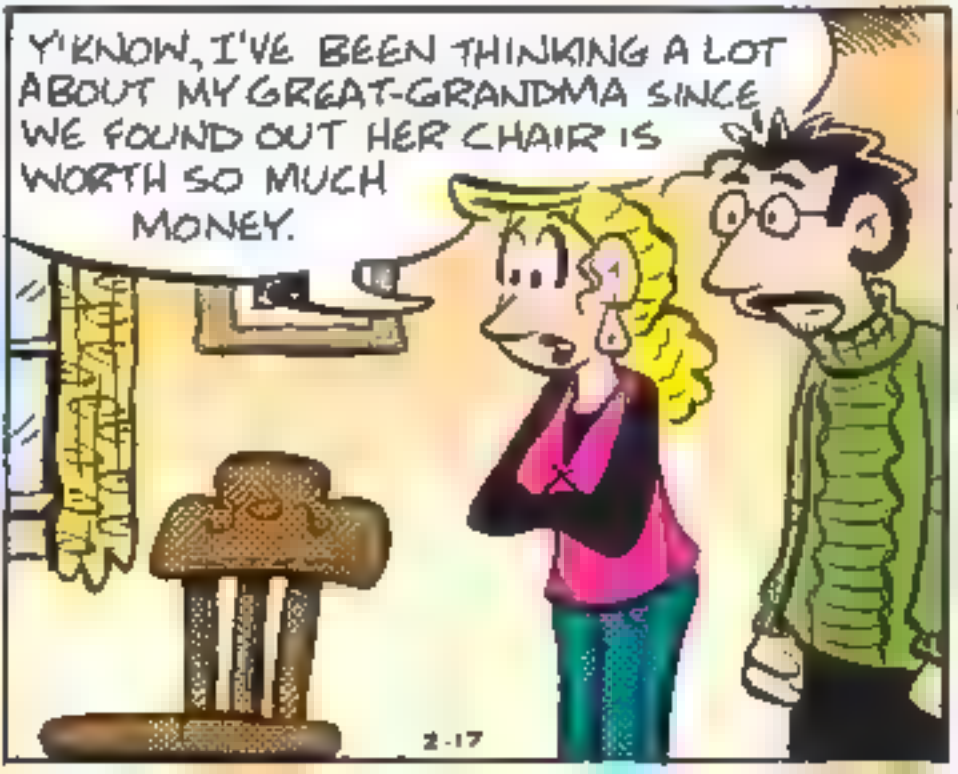



I JUST TALKED TO SOME INSURANCE COMPANIES ABOUT INSURING YOUR GREAT-GRANDMA'S CHAIR.
I GOT A COUPLE OF DIFFERENT QUOTES, BUT I'LL TELL YOU NOW IT'LL BE VERY EXPENSIVE.
WELL, IT IS WORTH $50,000!
WHICH, OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, IS ABOUT WHAT IT'LL COST US TO KEEP IT!

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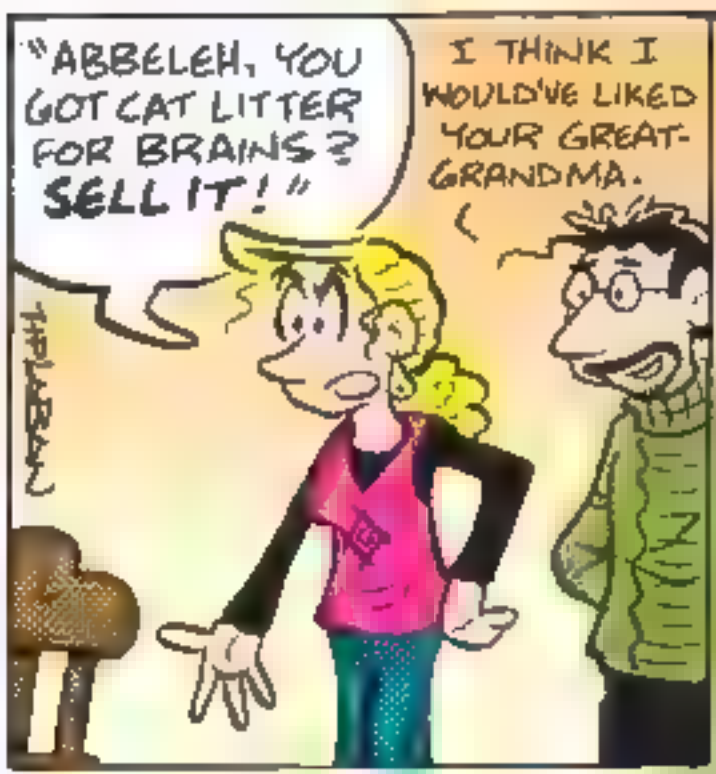
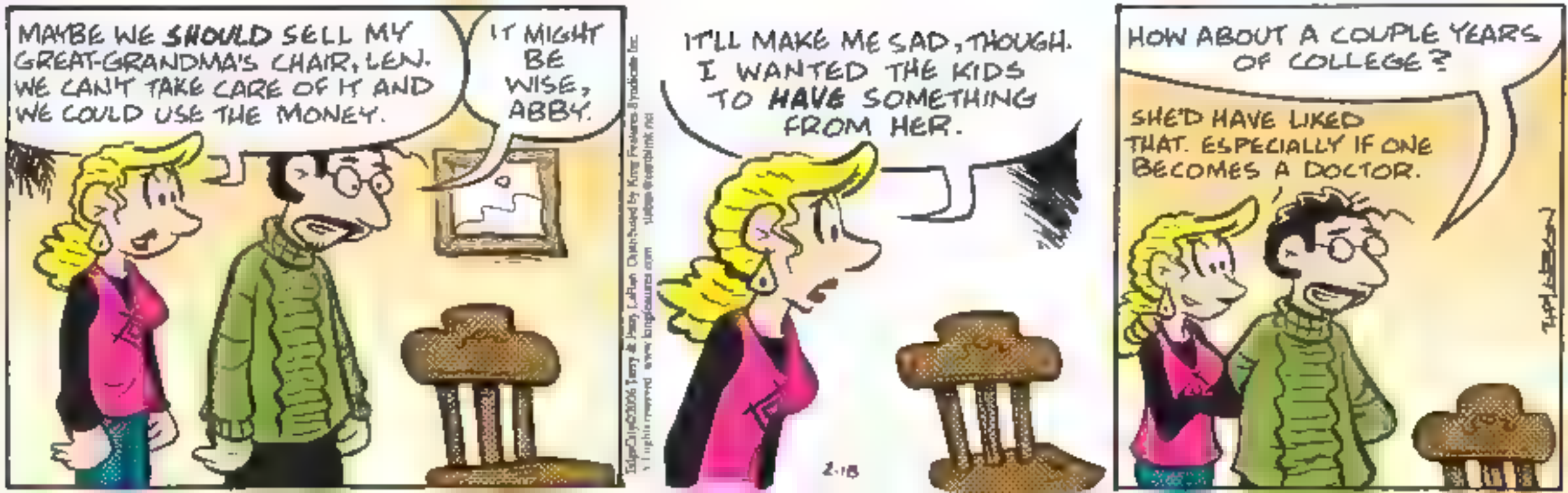
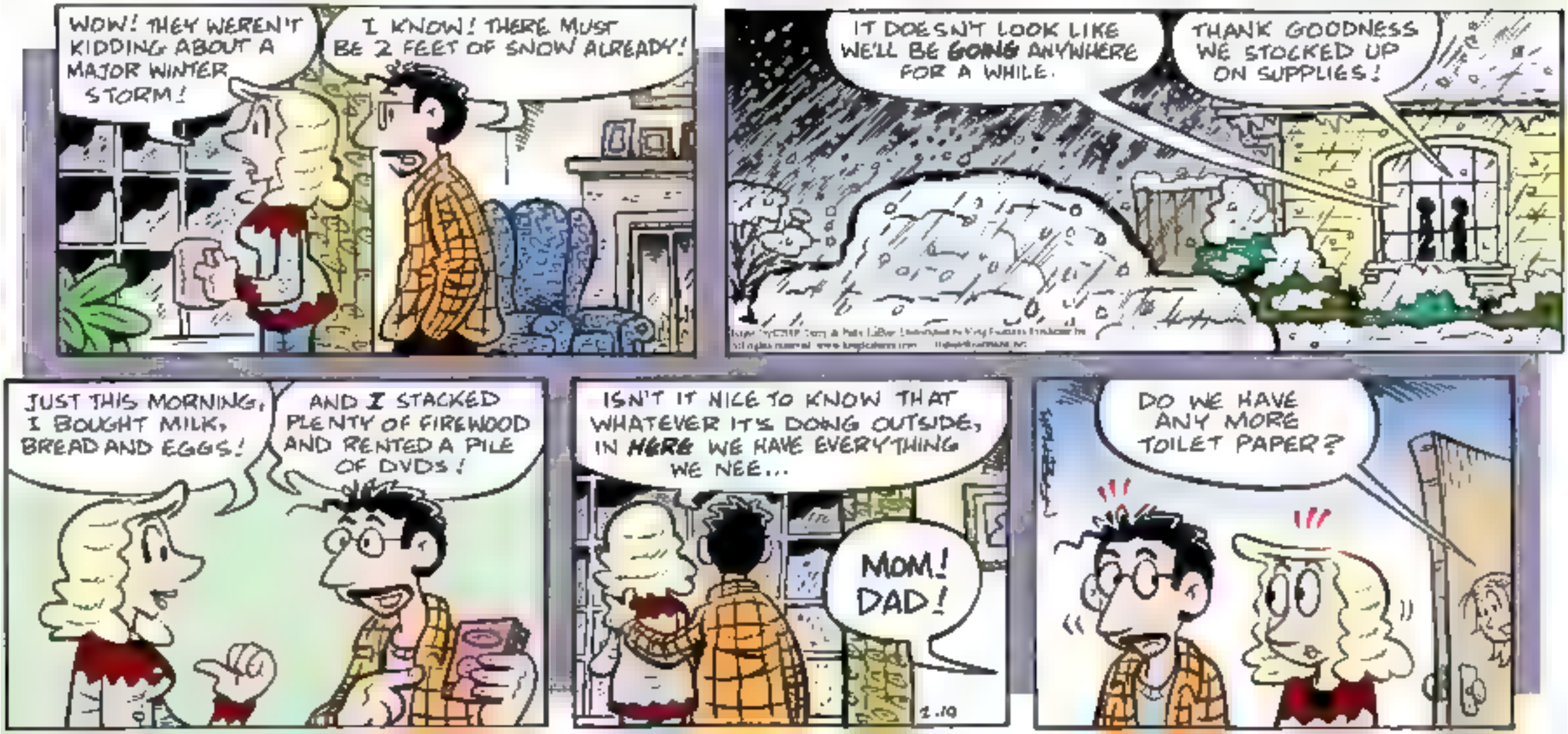
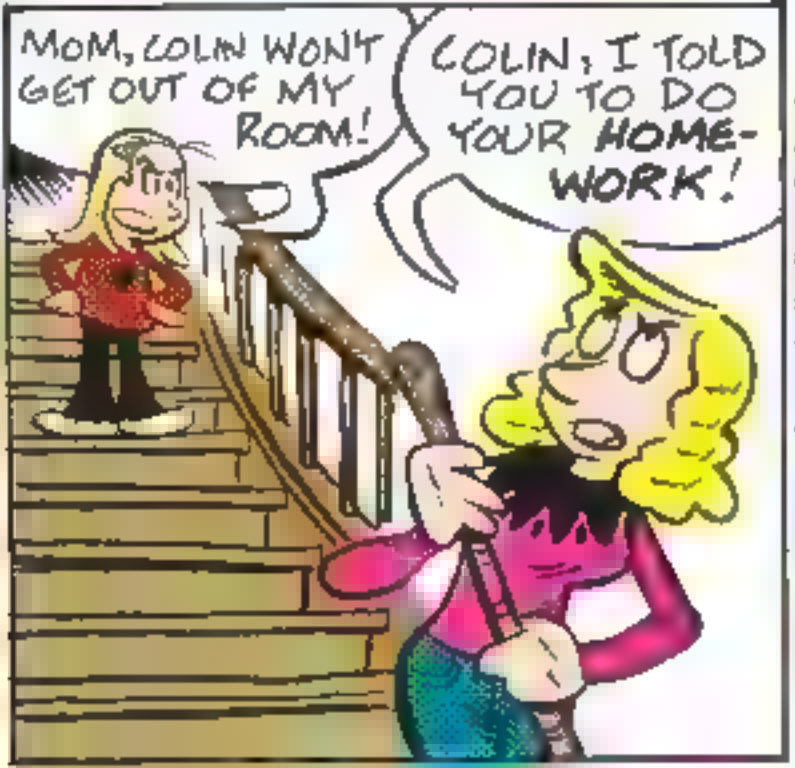



MAYBE WE SHOULD SELL MY GREAT-GRANDMA'S CHAIR, LEN. WE CAN'T TAKE CARE OF IT AND WE COULD USE THE MONEY.
IT MIGHT BE WISE, ABBY.
IT'LL MAKE ME SAD, THOUGH. I WANTED THE KIDS TO HAVE SOMETHING FROM HER.
2-18
HOW ABOUT A COUPLE YEARS OF COLLEGE?
SHE'D HAVE LIKED THAT. ESPECIALLY IF ONE BECOMES A DOCTOR.


WOW! THEY WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT A MAJOR WINTER STORM!
I KNOW! THERE MUST BE 2 FEET OF SNOW ALREADY!
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'LL BE GOING ANYWHERE FOR A WHILE.
THANK GOODNESS WE STOCKED UP ON SUPPLIES!
JUST THIS MORNING, I BOUGHT MILK, BREAD AND EGGS!
AND I STACKED PLENTY OF FIREWOOD AND RENTED A PILE OF DVDS!
ISN'T IT NICE TO KNOW THAT WHATEVER IT'S DOING OUTSIDE, IN HERE WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEE...
MOM! DAD!
DO WE HAVE ANY MORE TOILET PAPER?

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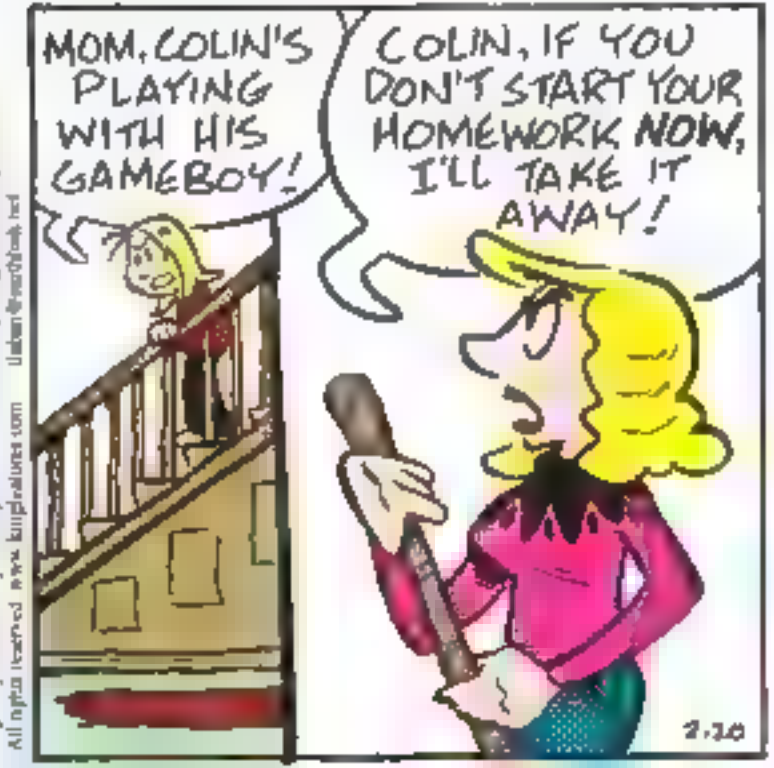
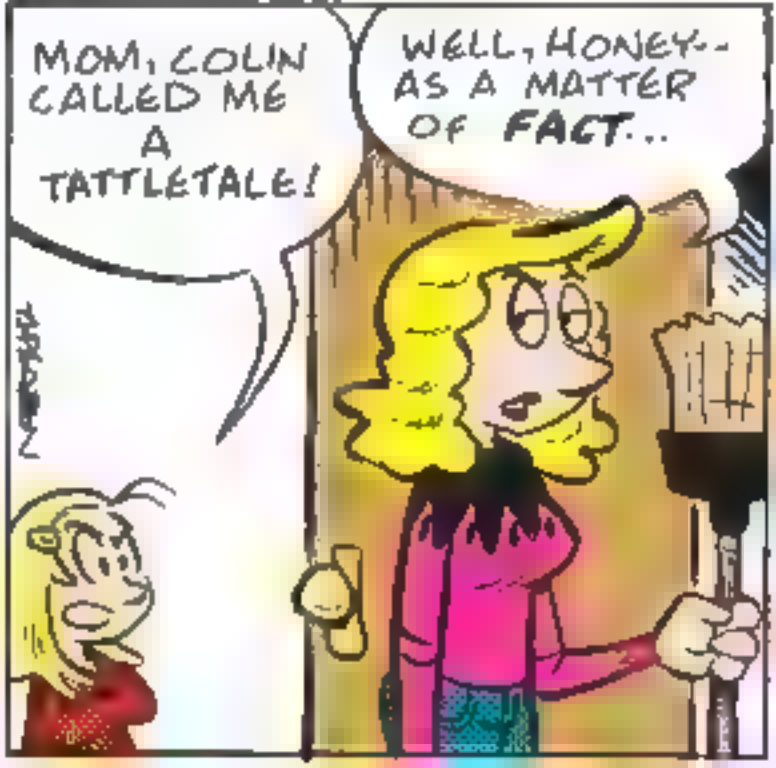
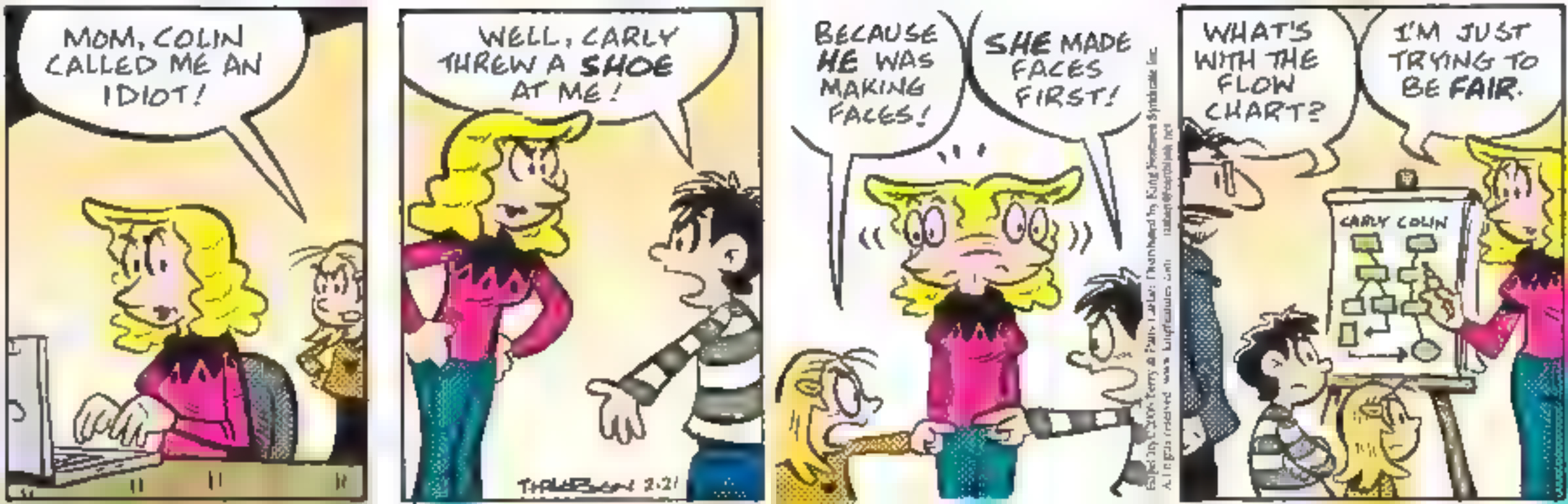
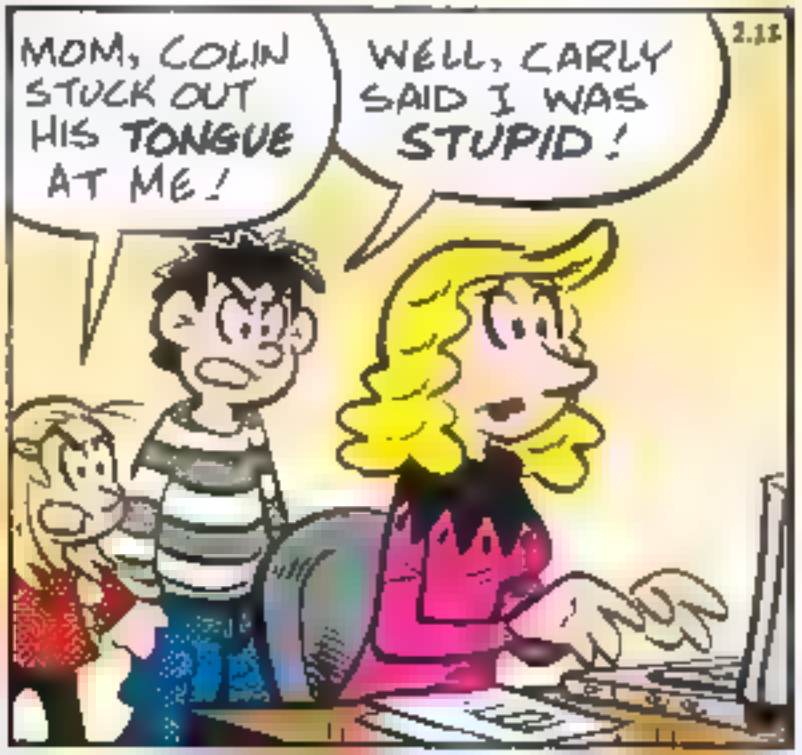
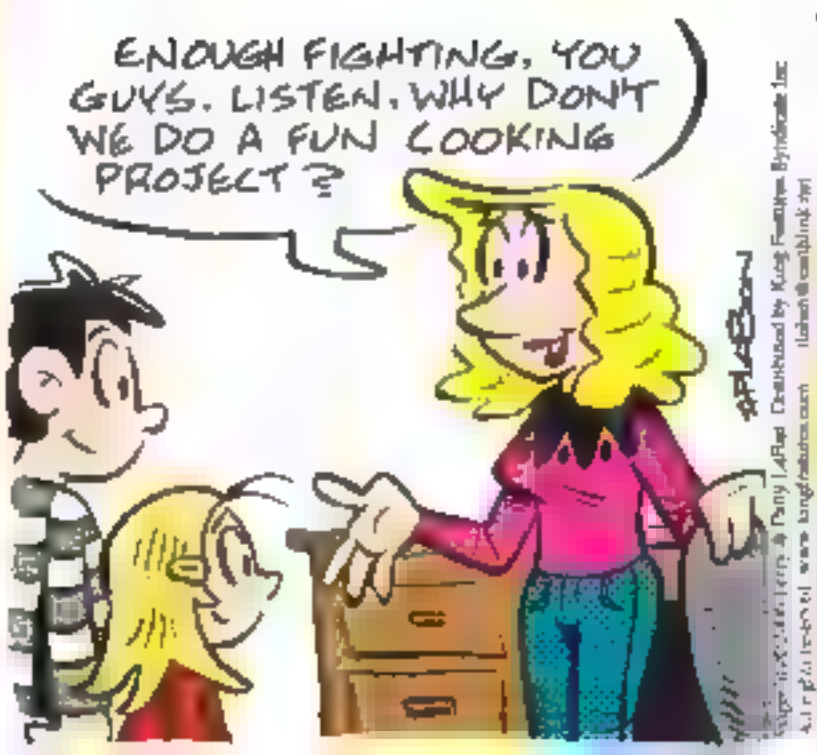
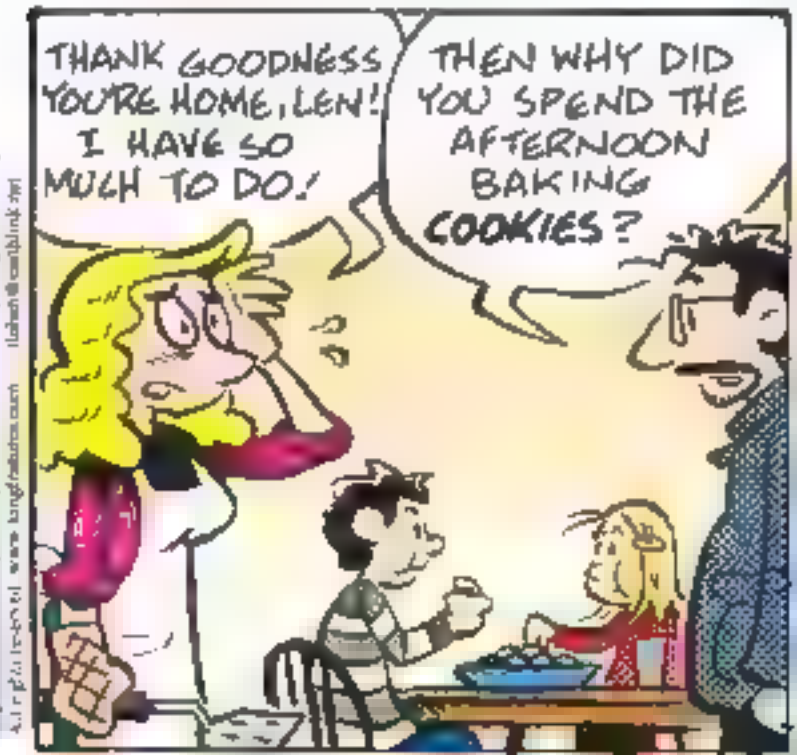


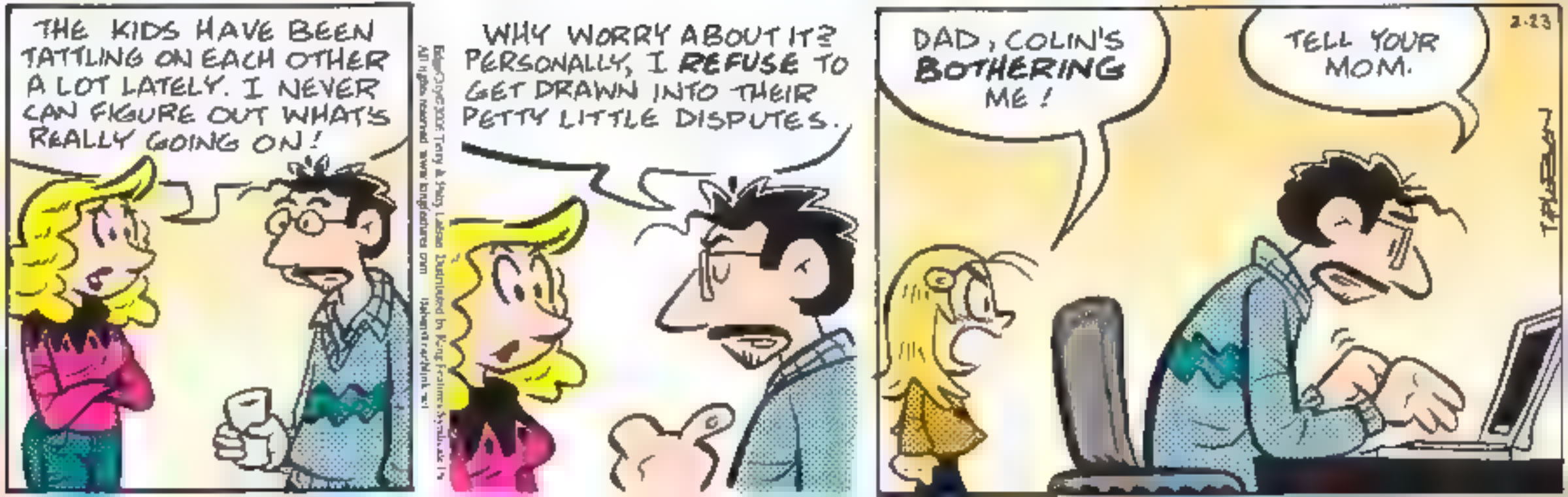




MOM, COLIN CALLED ME AN IDIOT!
WELL, CARLY THREW A SHOE AT ME!
THAVES 2-21
BECAUSE HE WAS MAKING FACES!
SHE MADE FACES FIRST!
WHAT'S WITH THE FLOW CHART?
I'M JUST TRYING TO BE FAIR.
CARLY COLIN

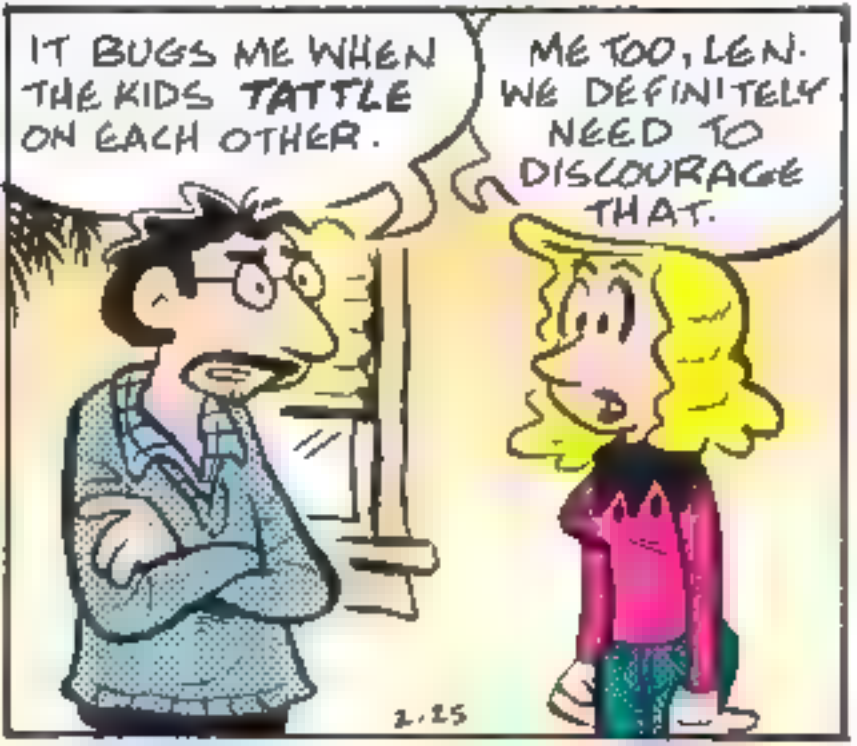

2.11
MOM, COLIN STUCK OUT HIS TONGUE AT ME!
WELL, CARLY SAID I WAS STUPID!

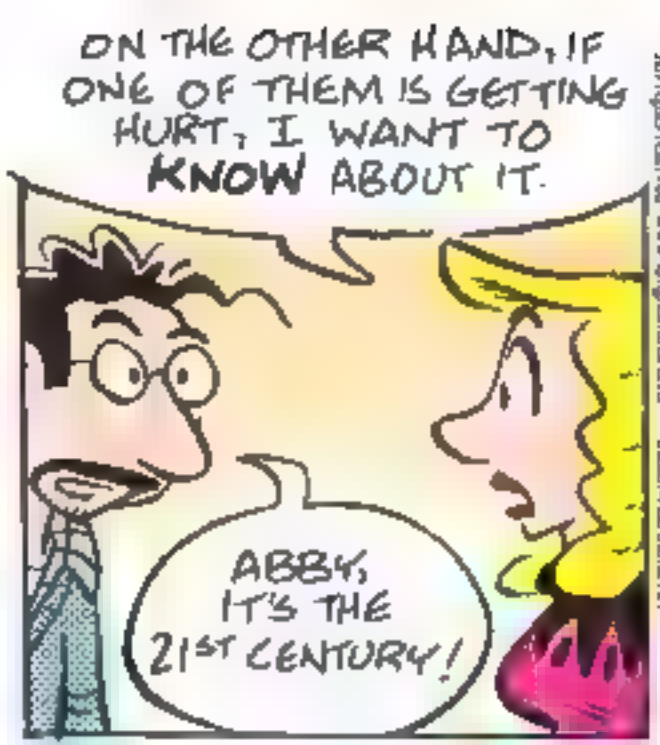

ENOUGH FIGHTING, YOU GUYS. LISTEN. WHY DON'T WE DO A FUN COOKING PROJECT?

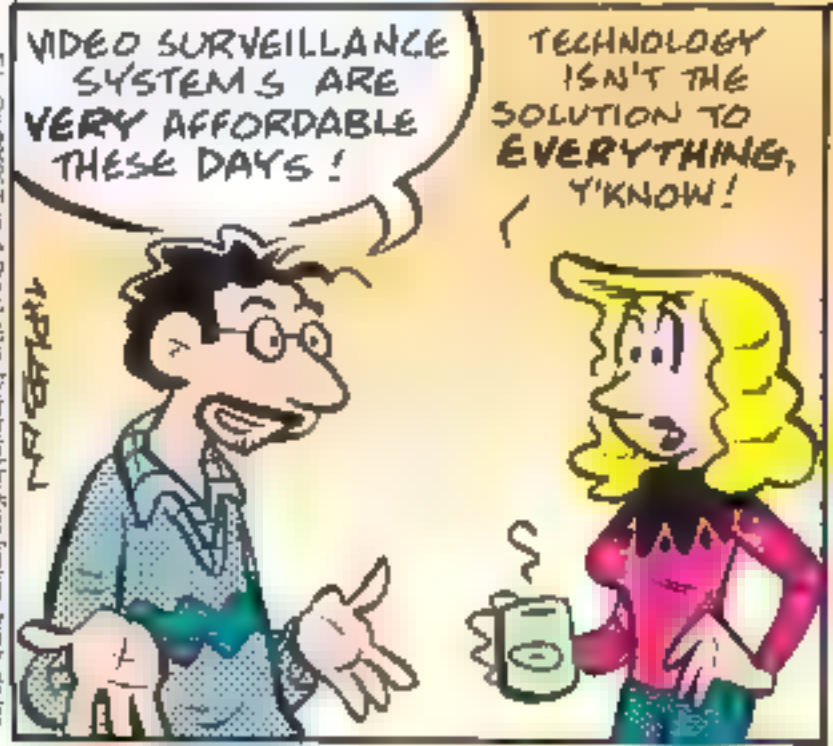

THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HOME, LEN! I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO!
THEN WHY DID YOU SPEND THE AFTERNOON BAKING COOKIES?


THE KIDS HAVE BEEN TATTLING ON EACH OTHER A LOT LATELY. I NEVER CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON!
WHY WORRY ABOUT IT? PERSONALLY, I REFUSE TO GET DRAWN INTO THEIR PETTY LITTLE DISPUTES.
DAD, COLIN'S BOTHERING ME!
TELL YOUR MOM.
2-23
TAPLIN

DAD, CARLY SPIT AT ME!
WELL, COLIN WOULDN'T GIVE ME BACK MY PENCIL!
I'M NOT GOING TO REFEREE A TATTLING CONTEST! YOU TWO NEED TO WORK THIS OUT YOURSELVES!
WHAM!
SLAM!
SCREECH!

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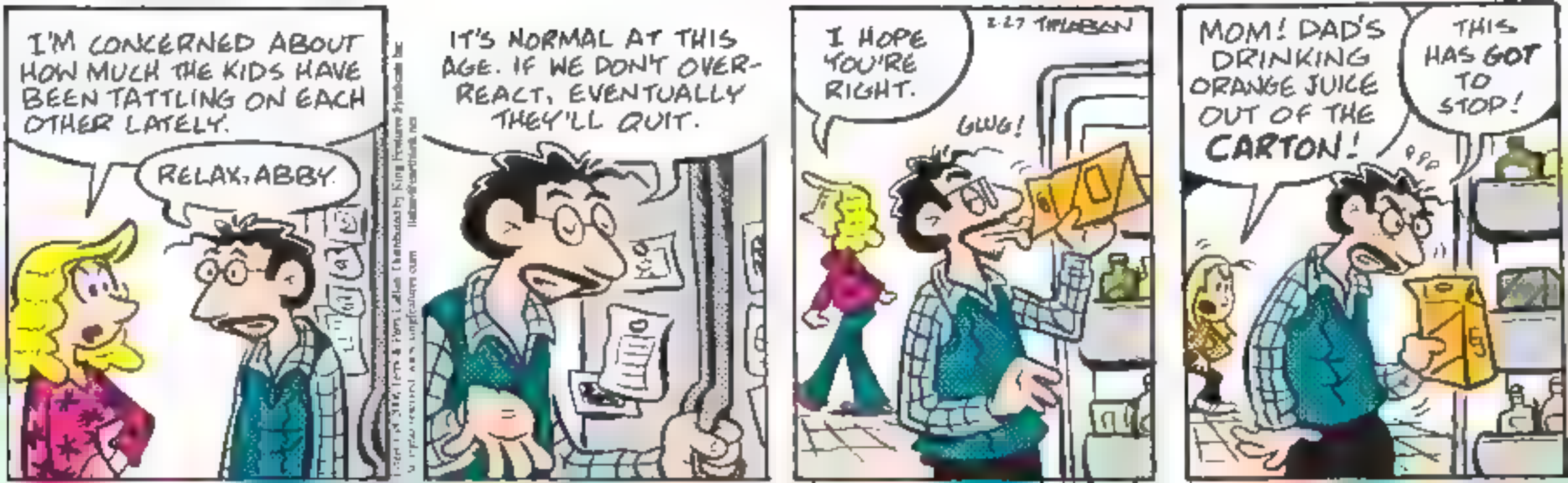
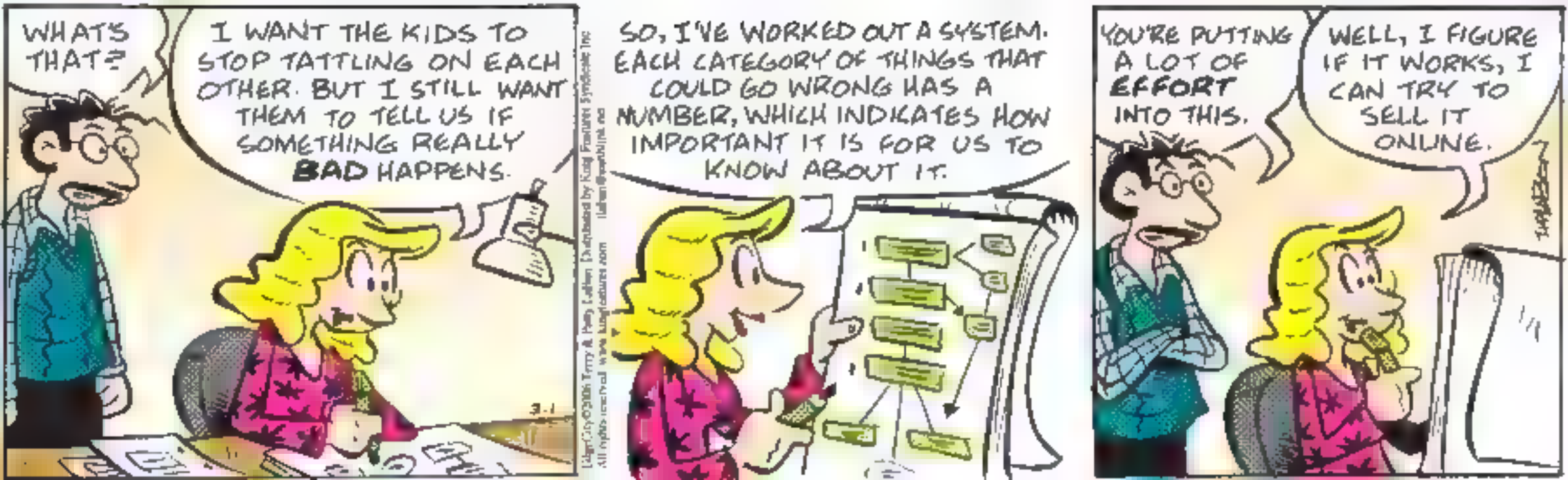
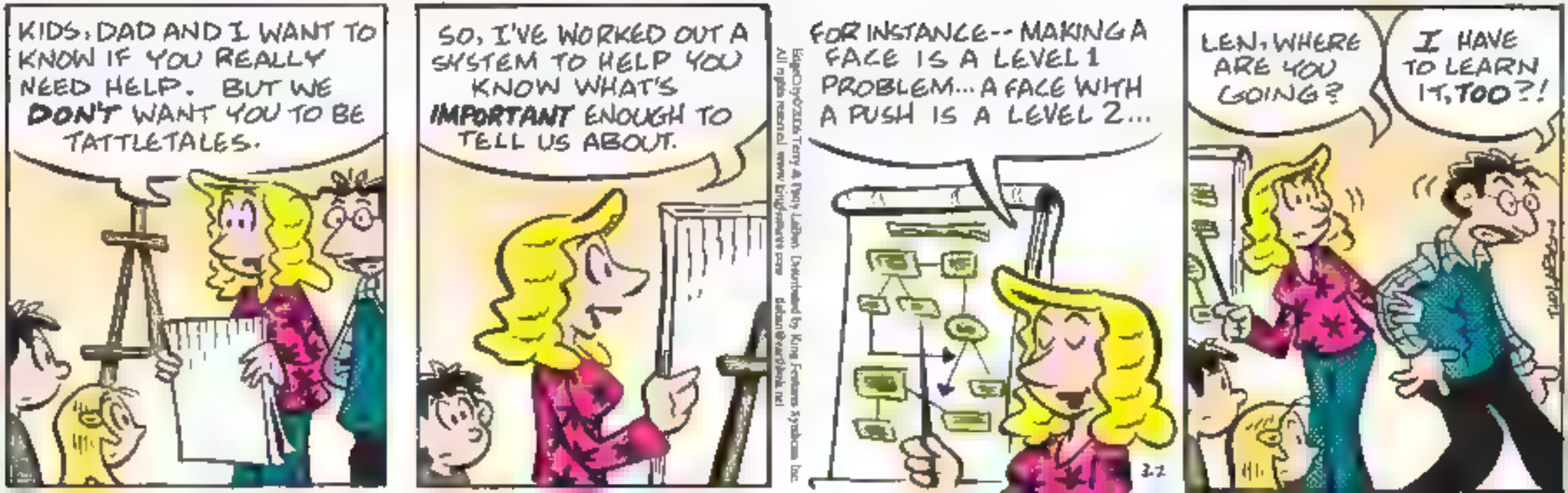
BABY, YOU ARE SO HOT!
ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE WITH INVIGORAL...!
♪..GOT TO SHAKE IT IF WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT... ♫
MOM! DAD!
YUCK!
2-26

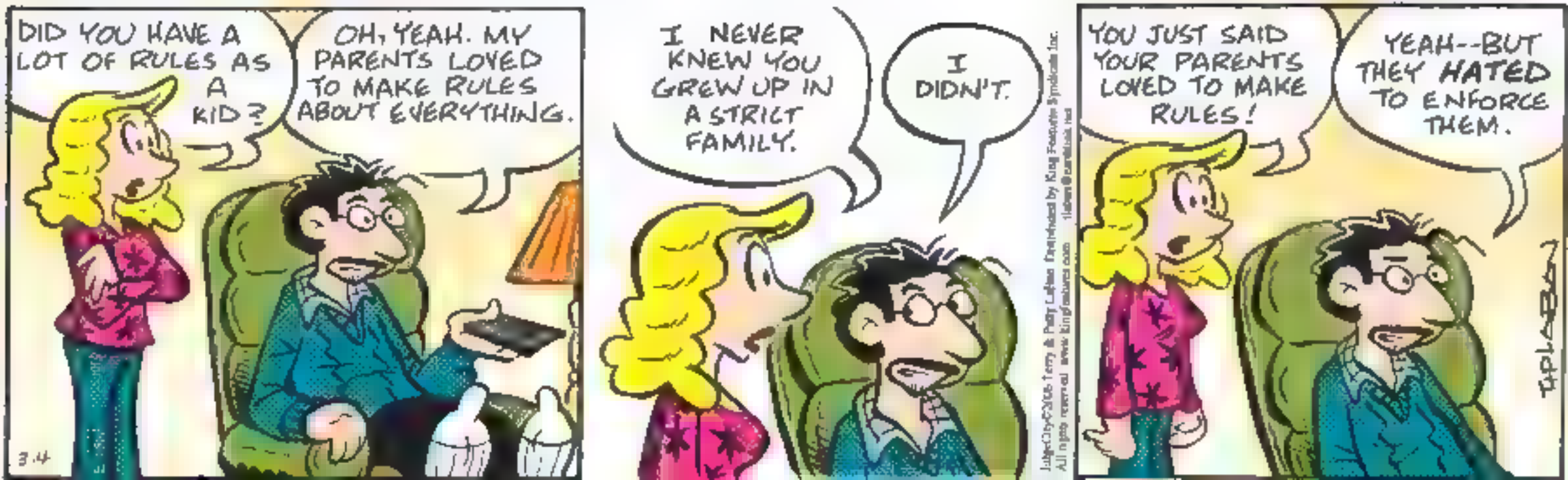

I'M CONCERNED ABOUT HOW MUCH THE KIDS HAVE BEEN TATTLING ON EACH OTHER LATELY.
RELAX, ABBY.
IT'S NORMAL AT THIS AGE. IF WE DON'T OVER-REACT, EVENTUALLY THEY'LL QUIT.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
GLUG!
MOM! DAD'S DRINKING ORANGE JUICE OUT OF THE CARTON!
THIS HAS GOT TO STOP!

MOM! DAD! COLIN CALLED ME A BOOGERFACE!
WELL, CARLY WAS LYING ON MY FLOOR!
LISTEN, WE'RE TIRED OF THESE PETTY LITTLE FIGHTS! DON'T COME TATTLING TO US UNLESS IT'S REALLY SERIOUS!
COLIN CALLED ME STUPID AND MESSED UP MY DOLLHOUSE!
CARLY DUMPED MY HAMPER AND LICKED ALL MY PENCILS!


WHAT'S THAT?
I WANT THE KIDS TO STOP TATTLING ON EACH OTHER. BUT I STILL WANT THEM TO TELL US IF SOMETHING REALLY BAD HAPPENS.
SO, I'VE WORKED OUT A SYSTEM. EACH CATEGORY OF THINGS THAT COULD GO WRONG HAS A NUMBER, WHICH INDICATES HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR US TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE PUTTING A LOT OF EFFORT INTO THIS.
WELL, I FIGURE IF IT WORKS, I CAN TRY TO SELL IT ONLINE.

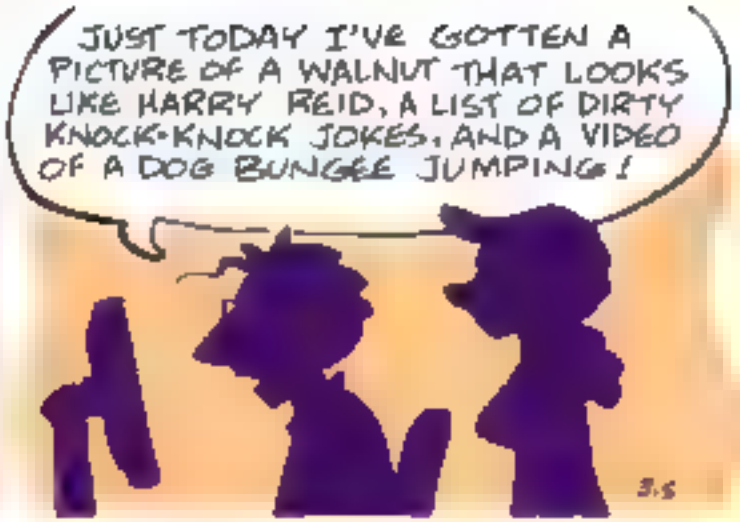

KIDS, DAD AND I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU REALLY NEED HELP. BUT WE DON'T WANT YOU TO BE TATTLETALES.
SO, I'VE WORKED OUT A SYSTEM TO HELP YOU KNOW WHAT'S IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO TELL US ABOUT.
FOR INSTANCE-- MAKING A FACE IS A LEVEL 1 PROBLEM... A FACE WITH A PUSH IS A LEVEL 2...
LEN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I HAVE TO LEARN IT, TOO?!

YOUR SYSTEM FOR HELPING THE KIDS FIGURE OUT WHEN TO TELL ON EACH OTHER IS COMPLICATED, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING.
I KNOW!
9-8
NOT ONLY IS THE TATTLING WAY DOWN--THEY'RE NOT ARGUING AS MUCH!
WELL...THEY'RE STILL ARGUING.
BUT IT'S DIFFERENT.
YOU CALLED ME A DOPE! THAT'S A LEVEL 1B INFRACTION!
UH-UH! IT ISN'T MORE THAN A 1A!

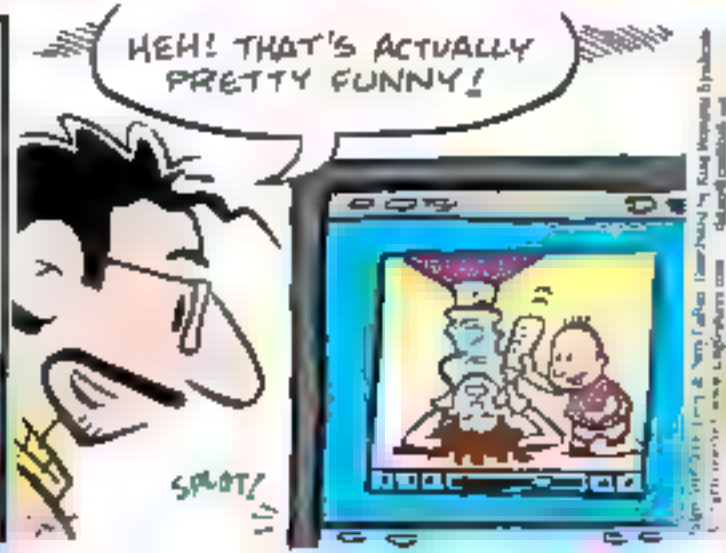

DID YOU HAVE A LOT OF RULES AS A KID?
OH, YEAH. MY PARENTS LOVED TO MAKE RULES ABOUT EVERYTHING.
3.4
I NEVER KNEW YOU GREW UP IN A STRICT FAMILY.
I DIDN'T.
YOU JUST SAID YOUR PARENTS LOVED TO MAKE RULES!
YEAH--BUT THEY HATED TO ENFORCE THEM.
TAPLABON

"FW: WHY MOMS CAN'T DO YOGA"
OH, MAN. WHY DOES YOUR DAD KEEP SENDING ME THIS STUFF?
WHAT STUFF?

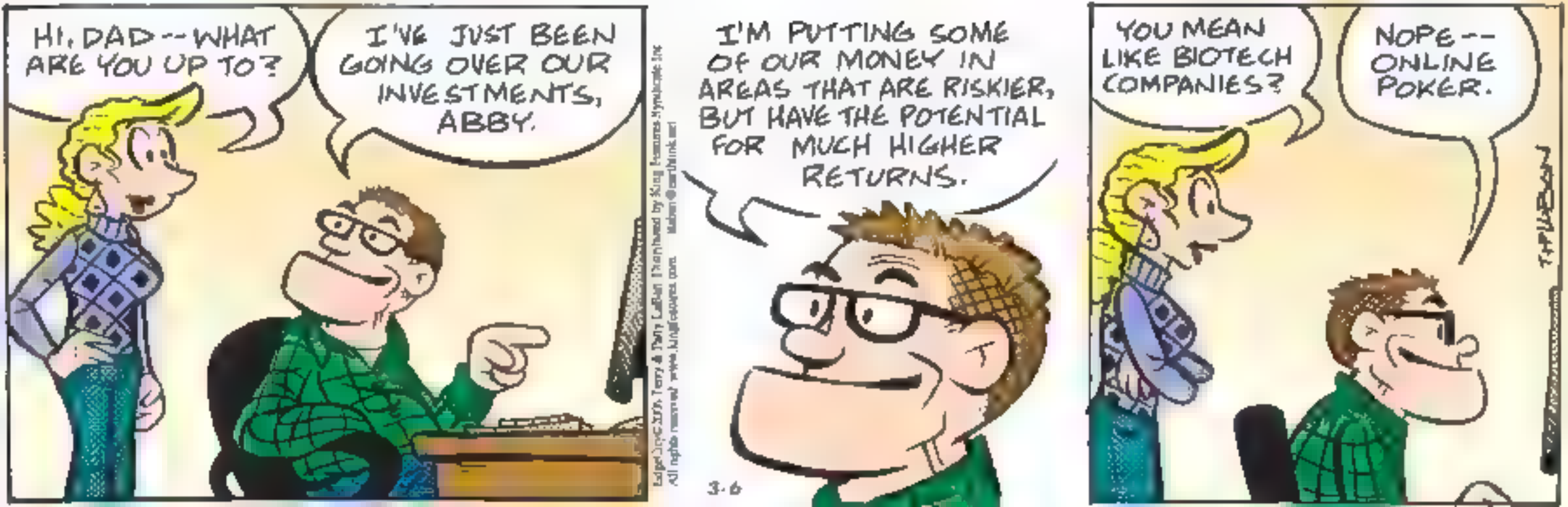
HE KEEPS FORWARDING ME E-MAILS PEOPLE SEND HIM WITH WEIRD THINGS THEY FIND ON THE INTERNET.

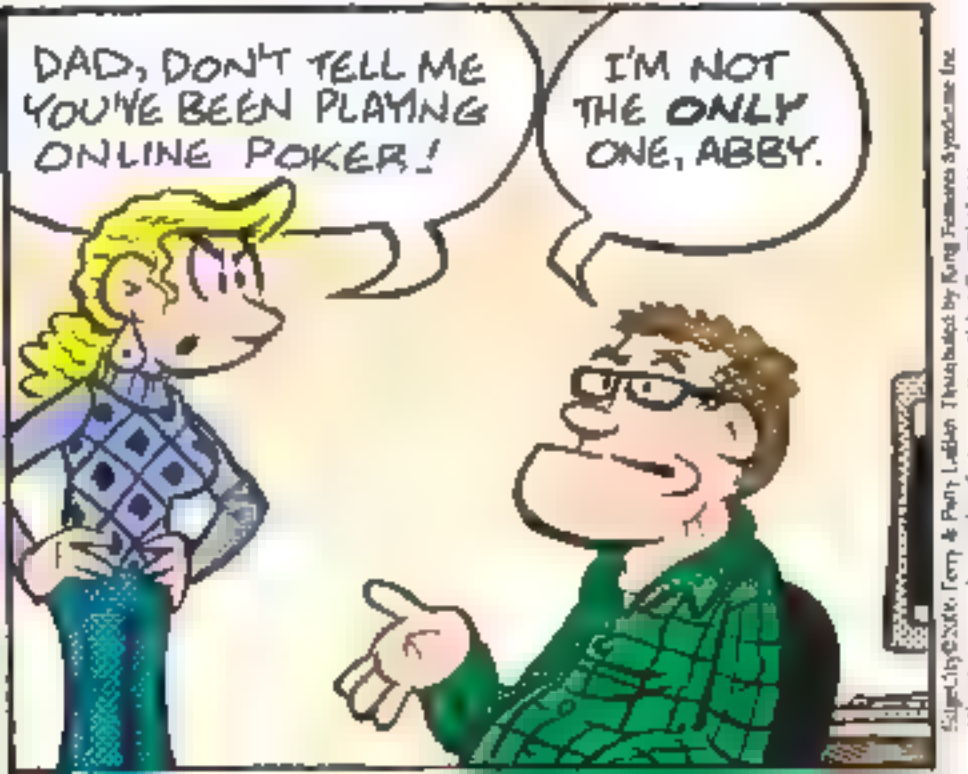

JUST TODAY I'VE GOTTEN A PICTURE OF A WALNUT THAT LOOKS LIKE HARRY REID, A LIST OF DIRTY KNOCK-KNOCK JOKES, AND A VIDEO OF A DOG BUNGEE JUMPING!

WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM TO STOP?
AW, HE DOESN'T MEAN ANY HARM.
SIGH!... MIGHT AS WELL CHECK IT OUT.


HEH! THAT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY FUNNY!
SPLOT!

"FW: WHY MOMS CAN'T DO YOGA"
MAN, WHY DOES LEN KEEP SENDING ME THIS STUFF?


HI, DAD -- WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
I'VE JUST BEEN GOING OVER OUR INVESTMENTS, ABBY.
I'M PUTTING SOME OF OUR MONEY IN AREAS THAT ARE RISKIER, BUT HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR MUCH HIGHER RETURNS.
YOU MEAN LIKE BIOTECH COMPANIES?
NOPE -- ONLINE POKER.
3-6

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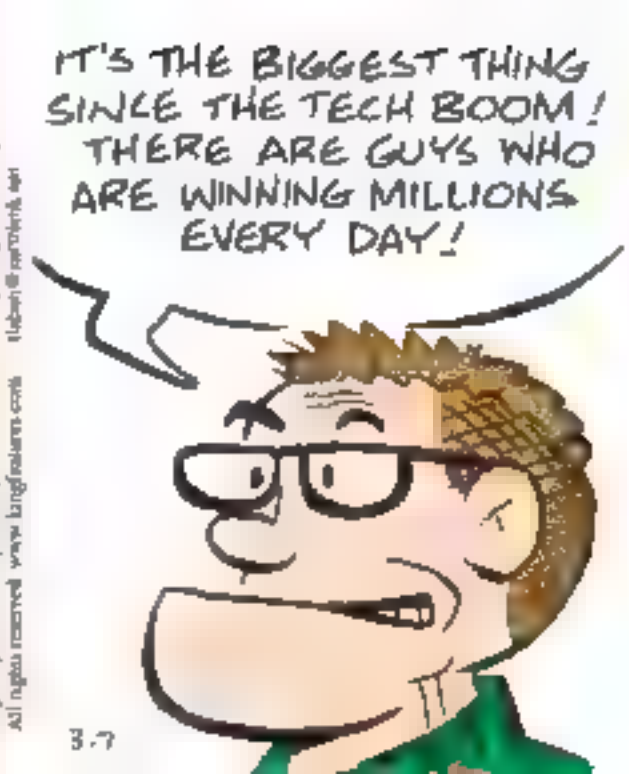




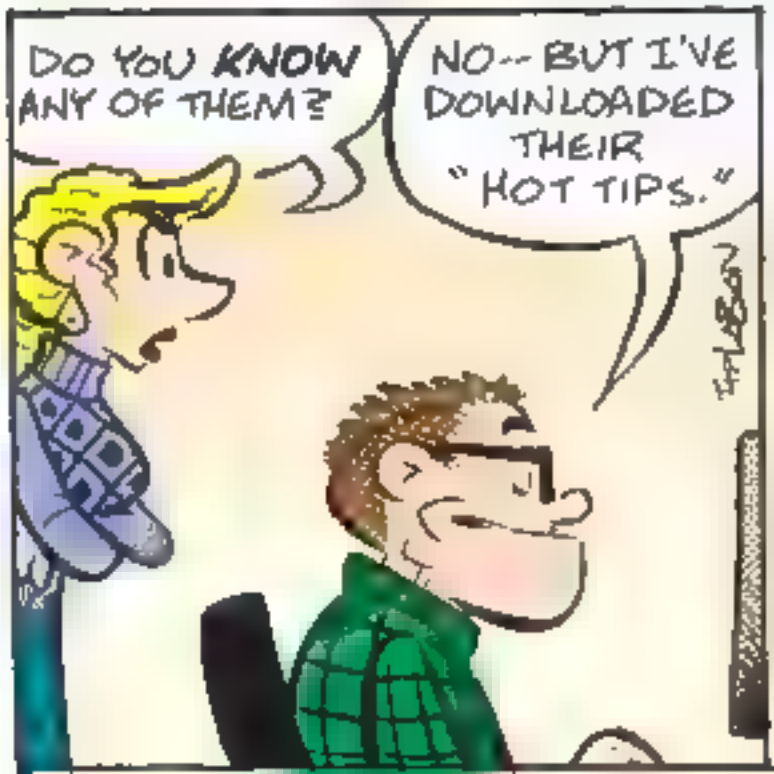

IF YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY ONLINE POKER, DAD, YOU'D BETTER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
AW, STOP WORRYING, ABBY.
3.8
LOTS OF PEOPLE I KNOW PLAY! ABE LESKOVIC UPSTAIRS WON $3500 LAST WEEK!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU WILL.
OH NO? WELL, I'VE PLAYED WITH ABE LESKOVIC, AND HE STINKS!

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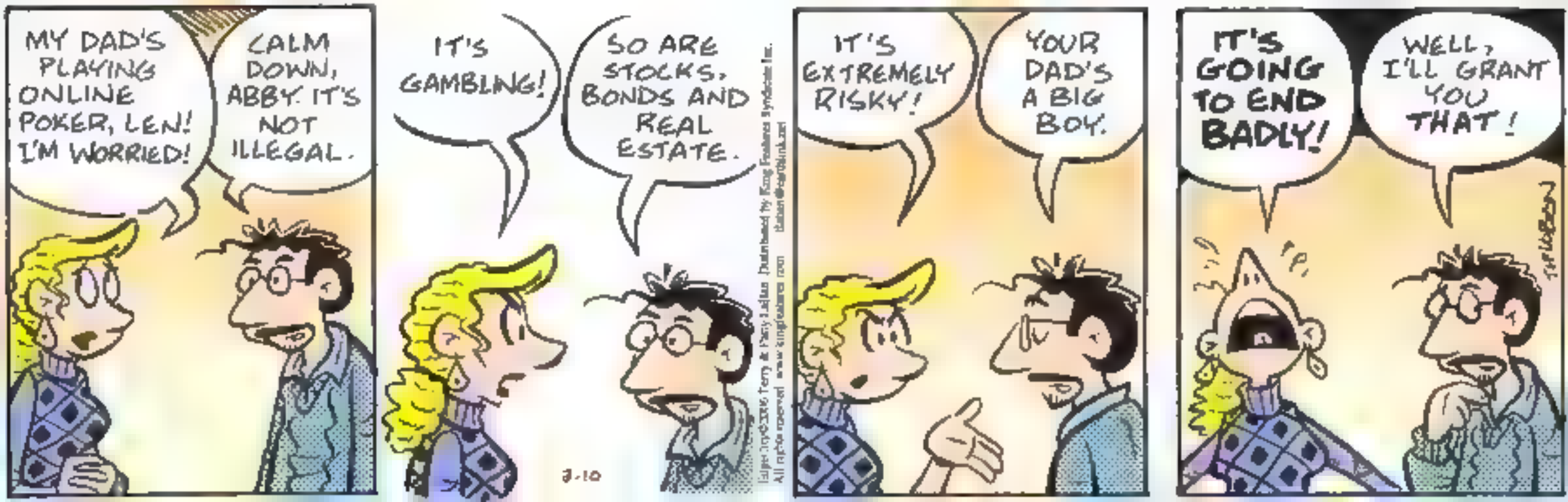
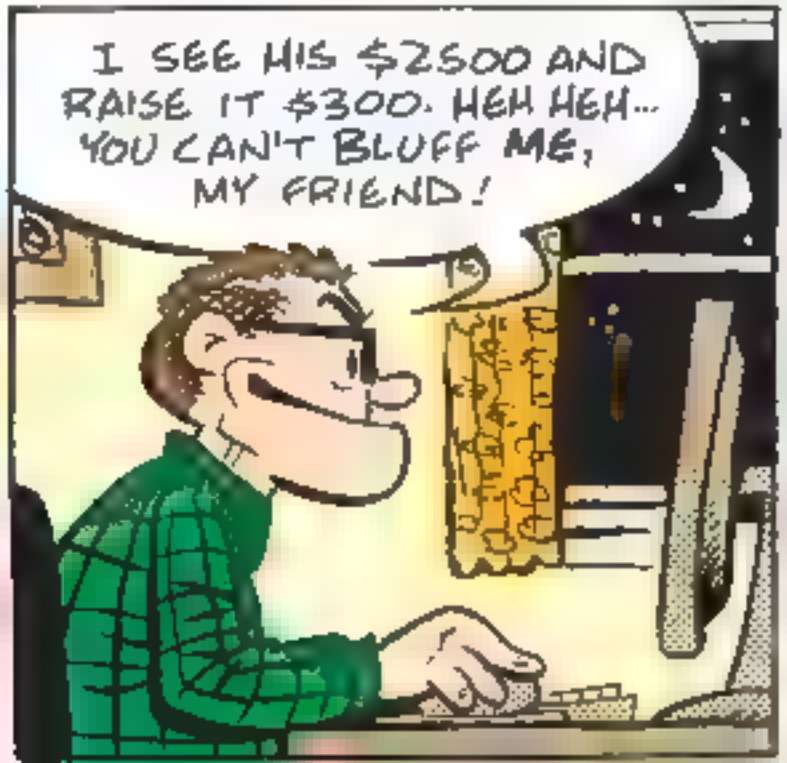

MY DAD'S PLAYING ONLINE POKER, LEN! I'M WORRIED!
CALM DOWN, ABBY. IT'S NOT ILLEGAL.
IT'S GAMBLING!
SO ARE STOCKS, BONDS AND REAL ESTATE.
IT'S EXTREMELY RISKY!
YOUR DAD'S A BIG BOY.
IT'S GOING TO END BADLY!
WELL, I'LL GRANT YOU THAT!

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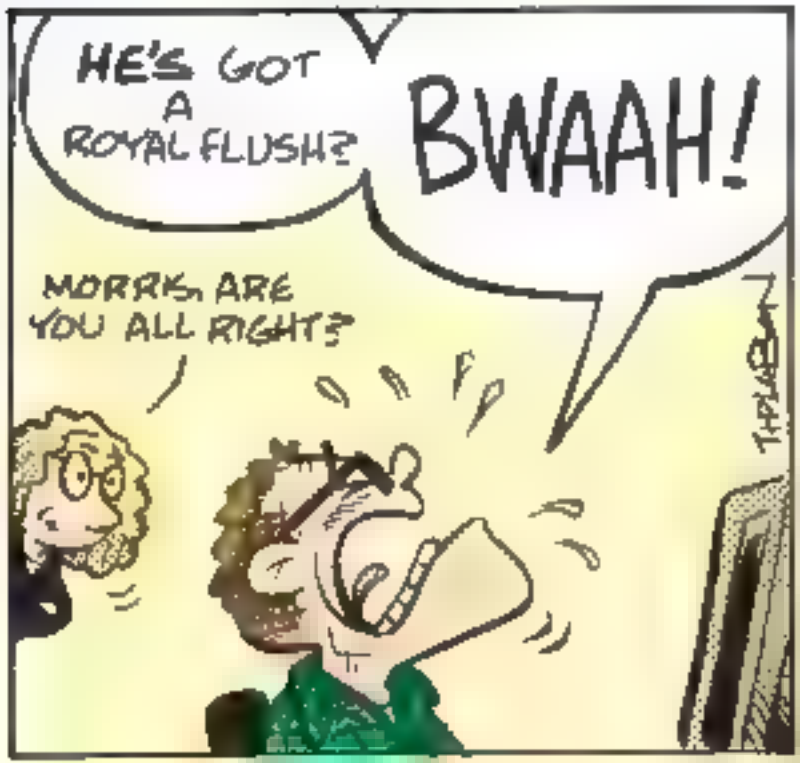
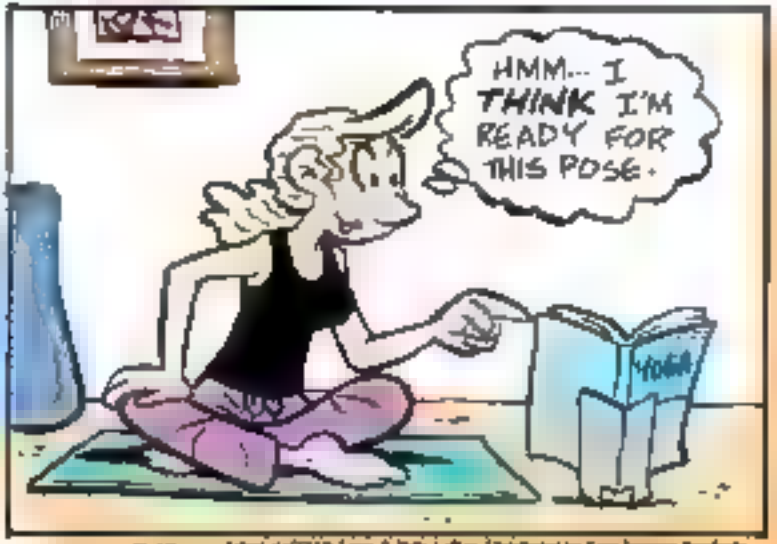
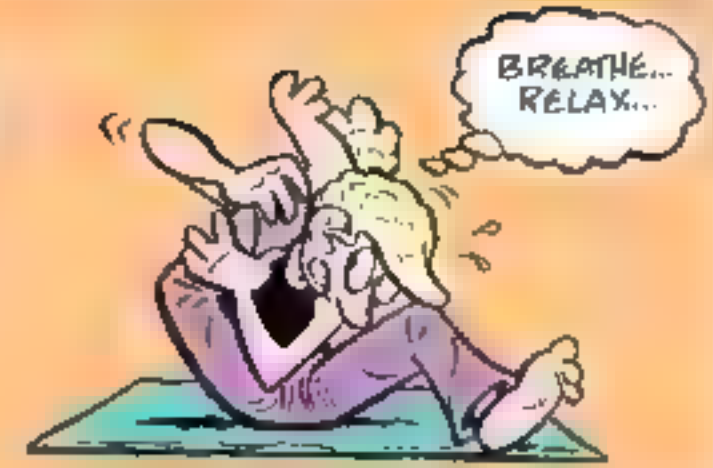
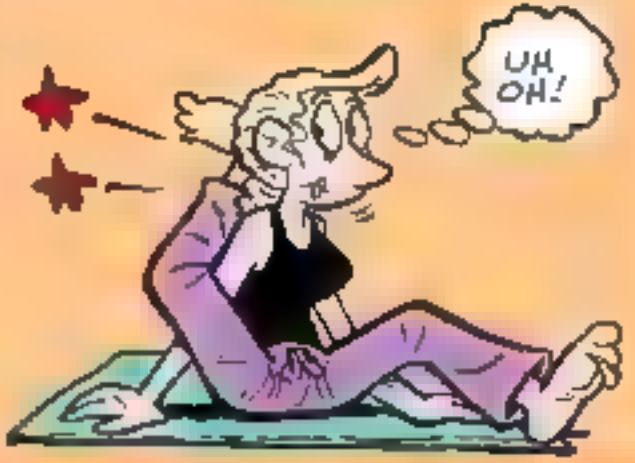


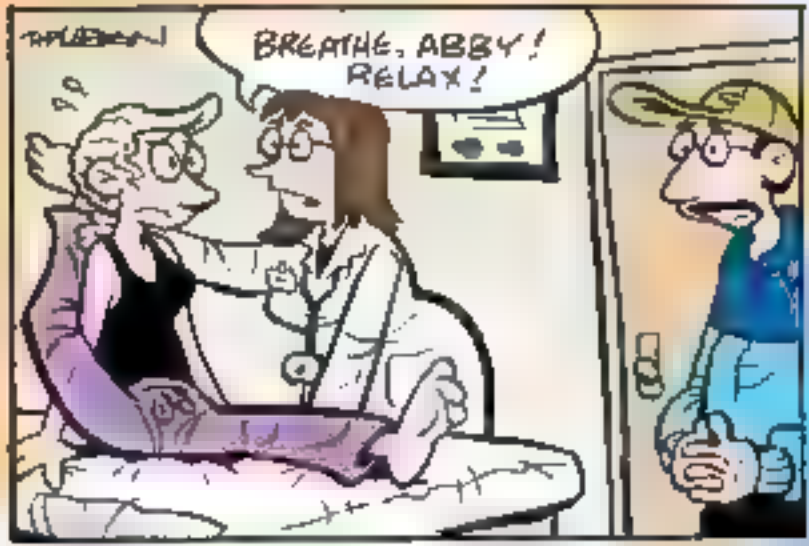

HMM... I THINK I'M READY FOR THIS POSE.
YOGA

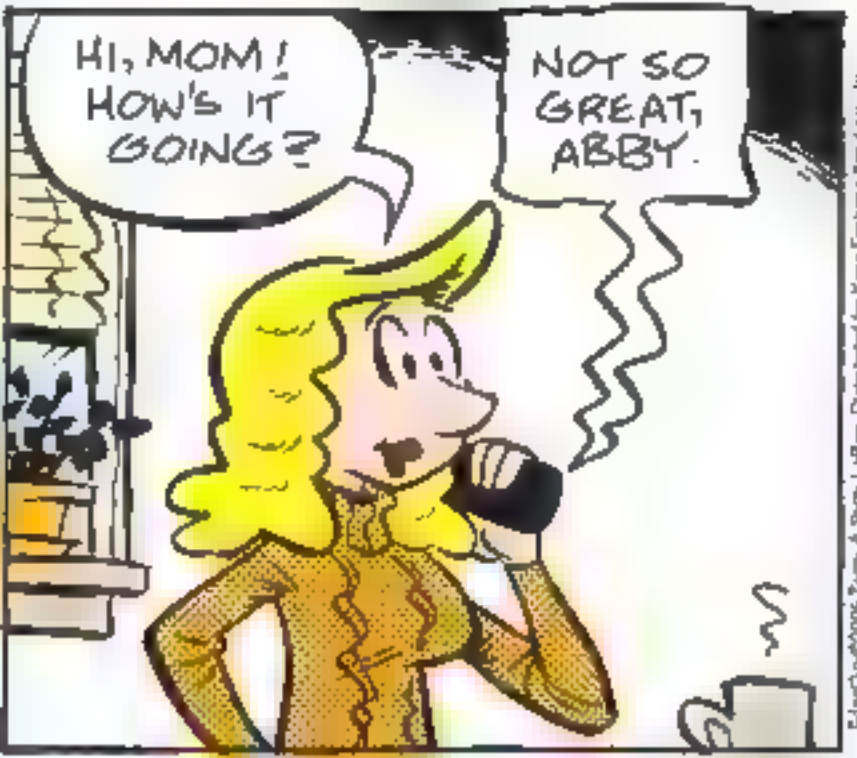
I'VE GOT TO BREATHE... RELAX...


BREATHE... RELAX...

YES!


UH OH!


BREATHE, ABBY! RELAX!

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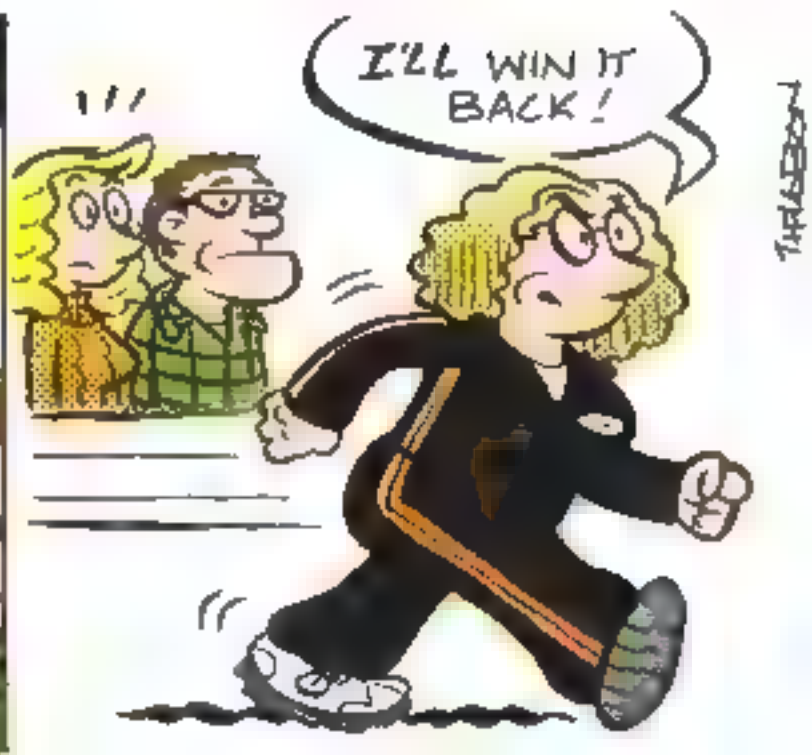
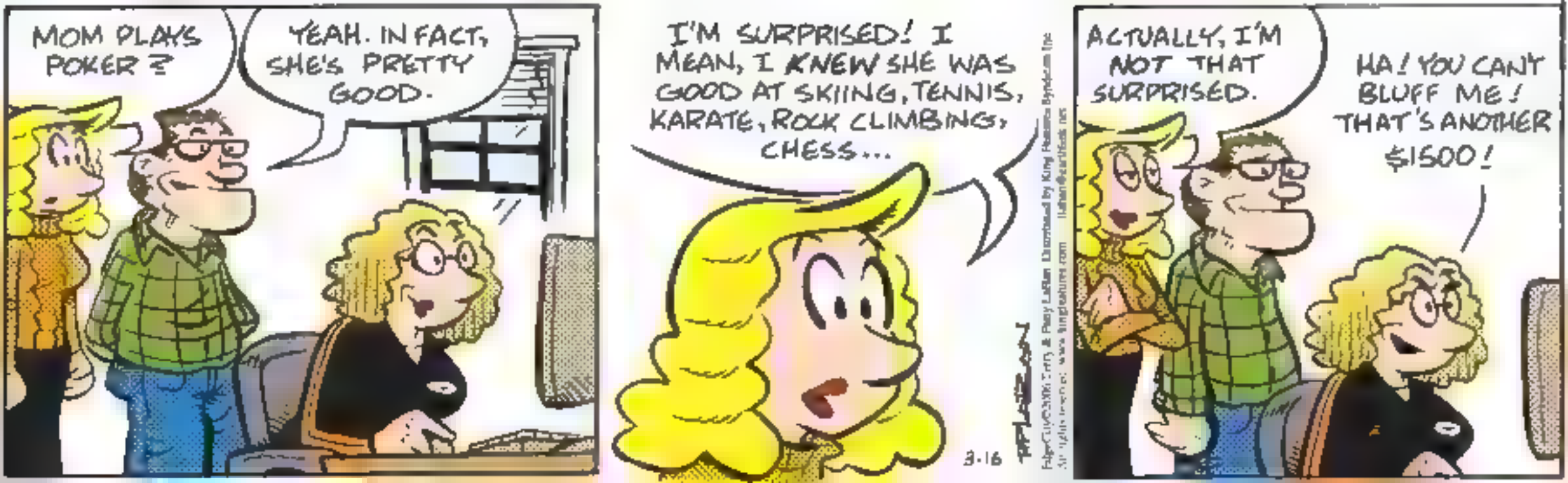
MOM, DAD LOST $5000 PLAYING ONLINE POKER?
I'M JUST BESIDE MYSELF!
JUST GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE, EDNA! I KNOW I CAN WIN IT BACK!
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?
3-14
I PUT ON MY LUCKY UNDERWEAR.
ABBY, I'LL HOLD HIM AND YOU TIE HIM UP!

DAD LOST $5000 PLAYING ONLINE POKER? WELL, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I TOLD YOU SO.
SIGH!! YOU WERE RIGHT, ABBY.

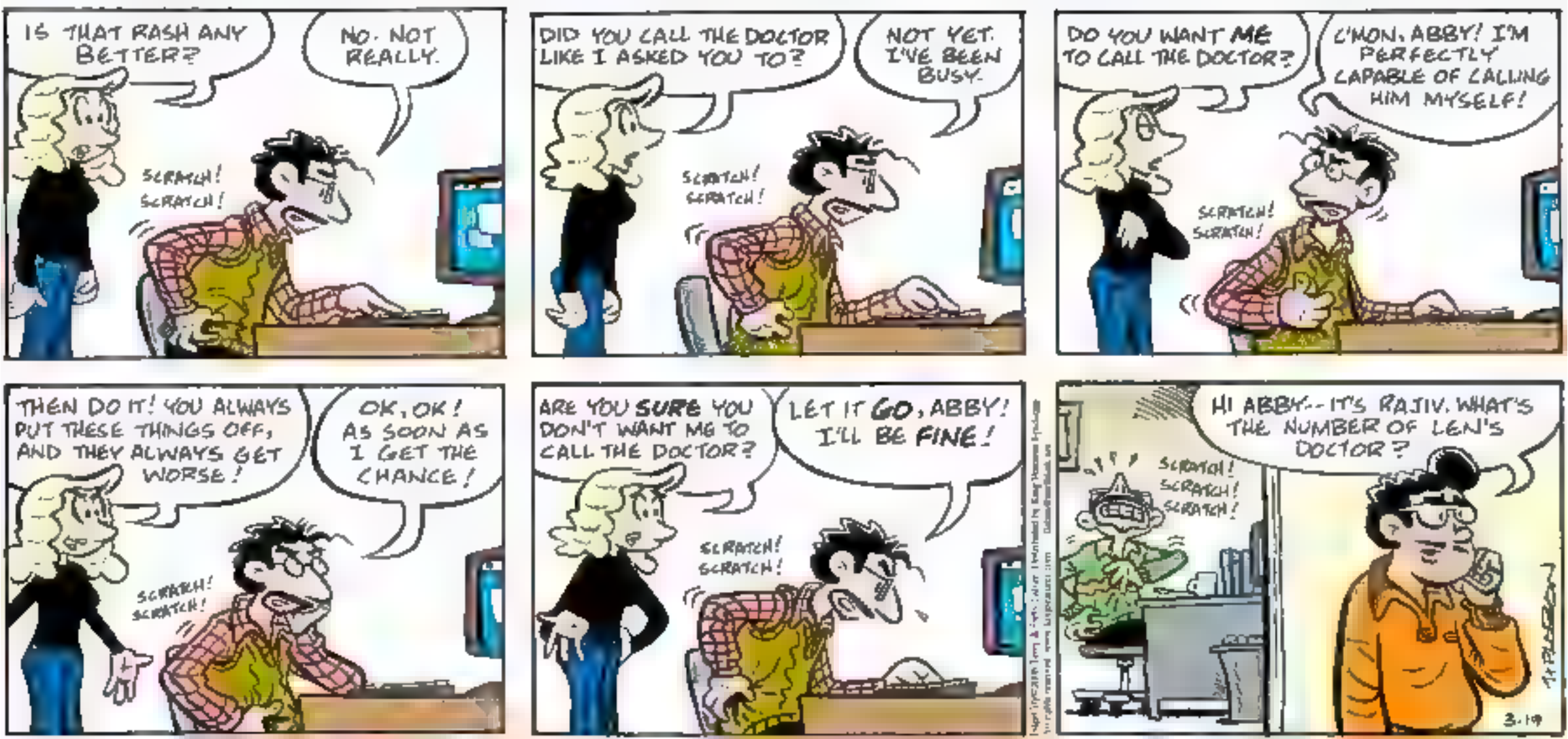
AW, COME ON! I CAN WIN IT BACK!
THE HECK YOU CAN! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE NEAR THAT COMPUTER!
9-15

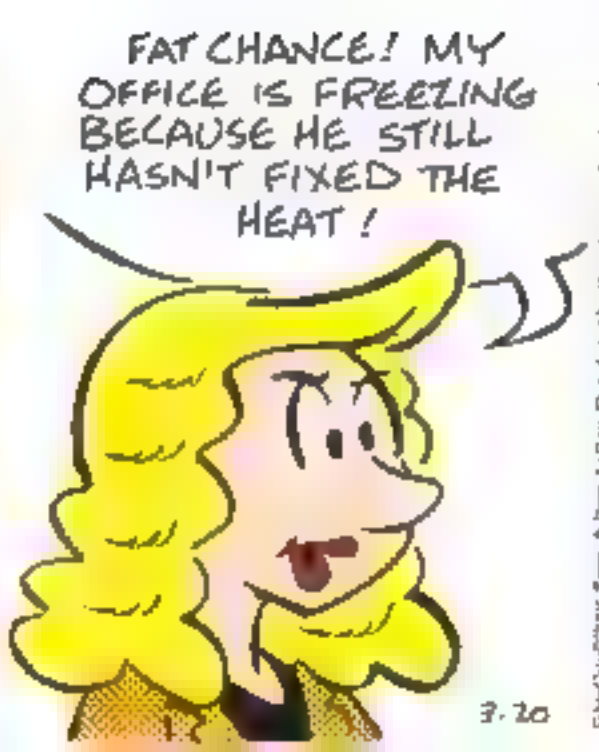

I'LL WIN IT BACK!


MOM PLAYS POKER?
YEAH. IN FACT, SHE'S PRETTY GOOD.
I'M SURPRISED! I MEAN, I KNEW SHE WAS GOOD AT SKIING, TENNIS, KARATE, ROCK CLIMBING, CHESS...
3-16
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT THAT SURPRISED.
HA! YOU CAN'T BLUFF ME! THAT'S ANOTHER $1500!

HA! MY HAND WINS! I'VE WON NEARLY $4000 THIS AFTERNOON!
MOM, YOU'RE AMAZING!
I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T PLAY ONLINE POKER MORE.
NO WAY, ABBY! I'M ALREADY PAST MY USUAL LIMIT.
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO PUSH YOUR LUCK, HUH?
NO-- IF I STARE AT A COMPUTER SCREEN TOO LONG, I GET A HEADACHE!
3-17

SO, DAD -- YOU'RE DONE WITH ONLINE POKER?
ABSOLUTELY, ABBY. I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON.
I'M A GOOD PLAYER, BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO ARE BETTER.
3-18
ANYWAY, I LIKE ONLINE BLACKJACK MORE.
MOOOM!!


IS THAT RASH ANY BETTER?
NO. NOT REALLY.
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!
DID YOU CALL THE DOCTOR LIKE I ASKED YOU TO?
NOT YET. I'VE BEEN BUSY.
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!
DO YOU WANT ME TO CALL THE DOCTOR?
C'MON, ABBY! I'M PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF CALLING HIM MYSELF!
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!
THEN DO IT! YOU ALWAYS PUT THESE THINGS OFF, AND THEY ALWAYS GET WORSE!
OK, OK! AS SOON AS I GET THE CHANCE!
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO CALL THE DOCTOR?
LET IT GO, ABBY! I'LL BE FINE!
SCRATCH! SCRATCH!
SCRATCH! SCRATCH! SCRATCH!
HI ABBY-- IT'S RAJIV. WHAT'S THE NUMBER OF LEN'S DOCTOR?
3-19

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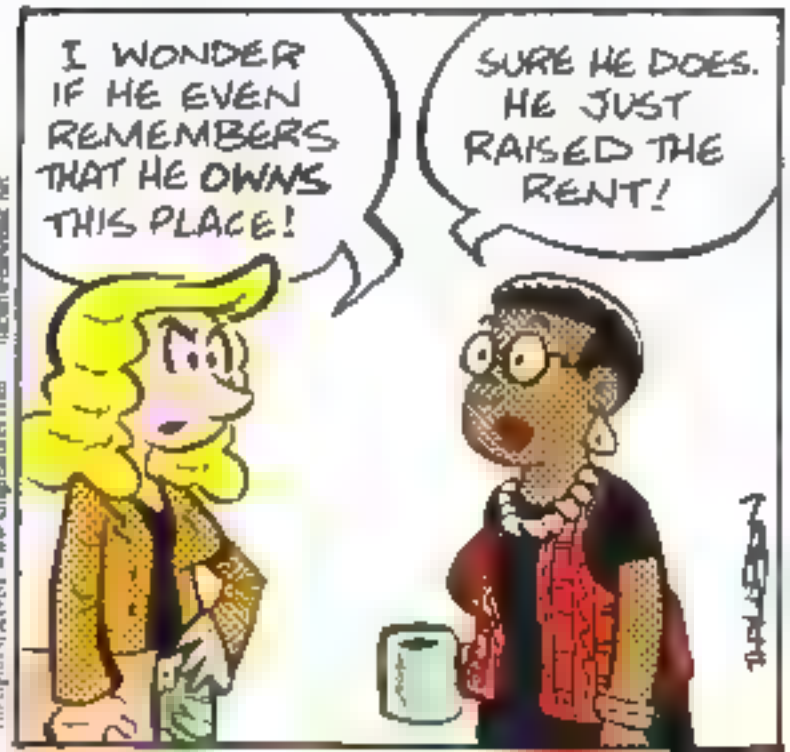

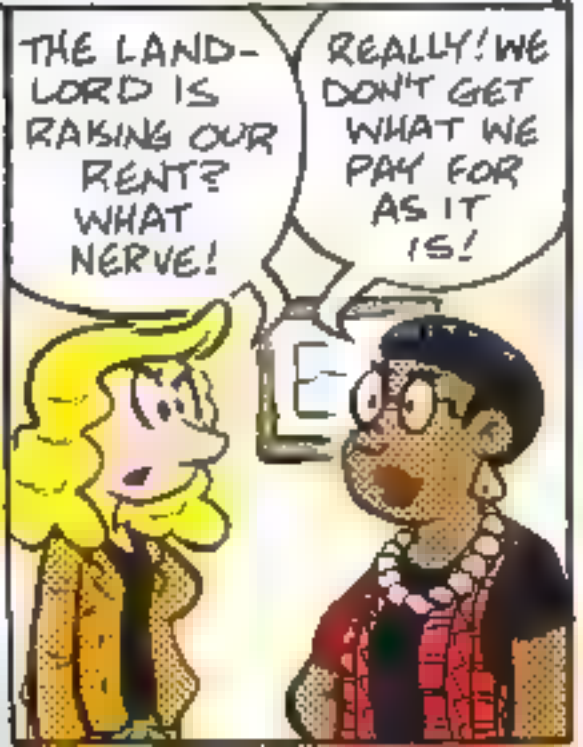

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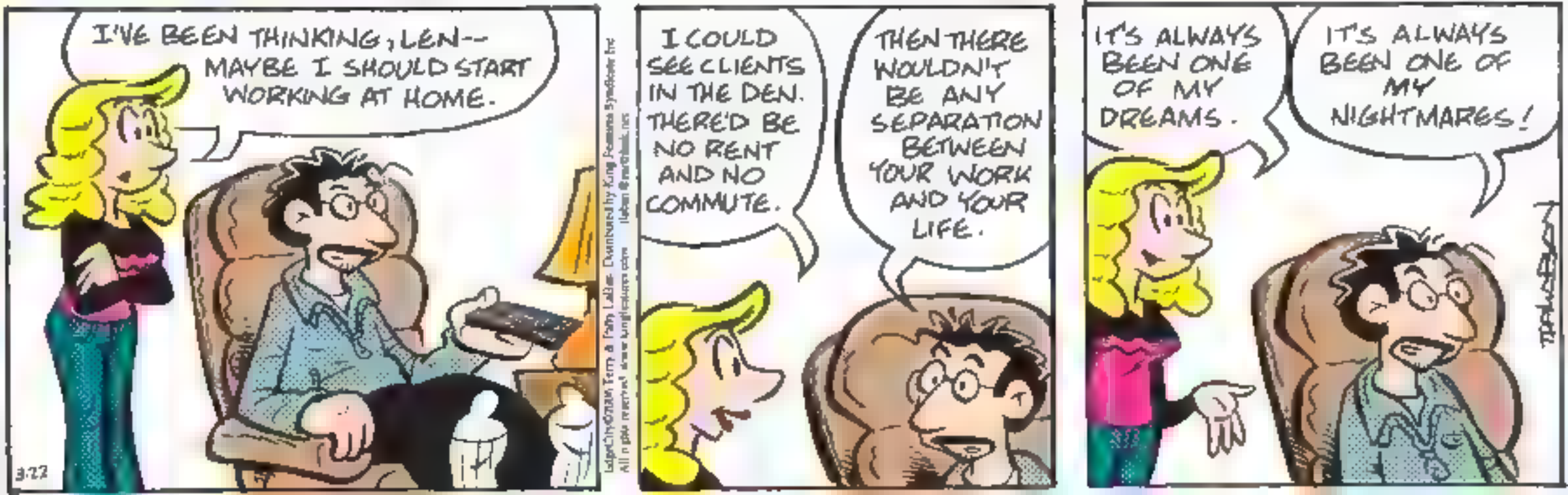
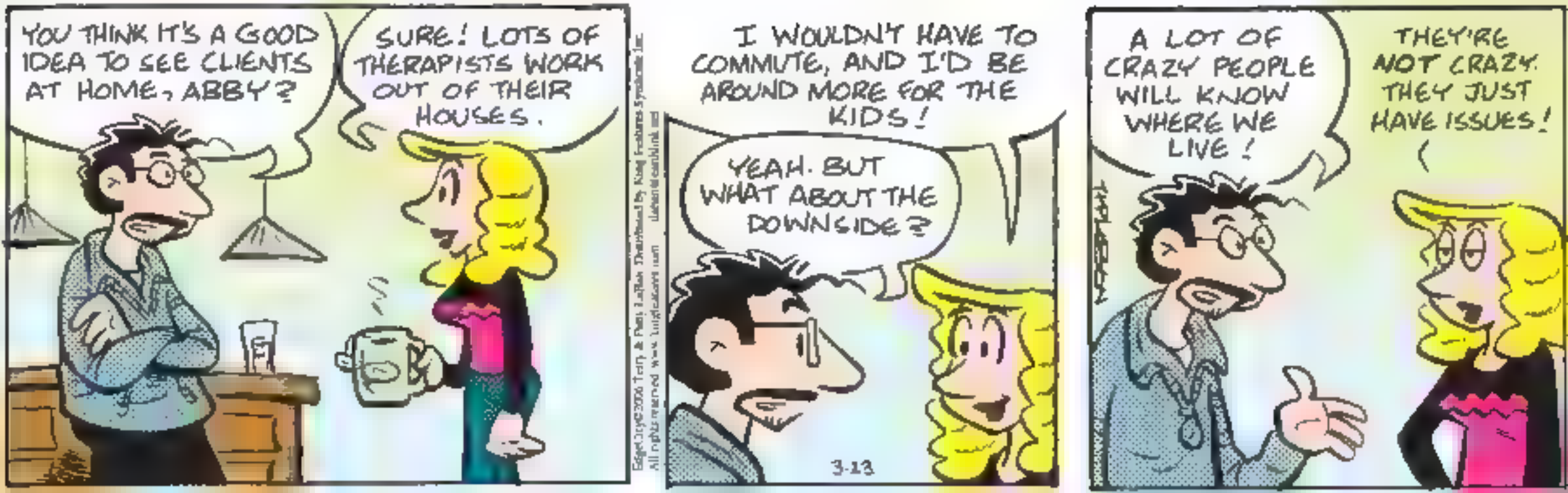
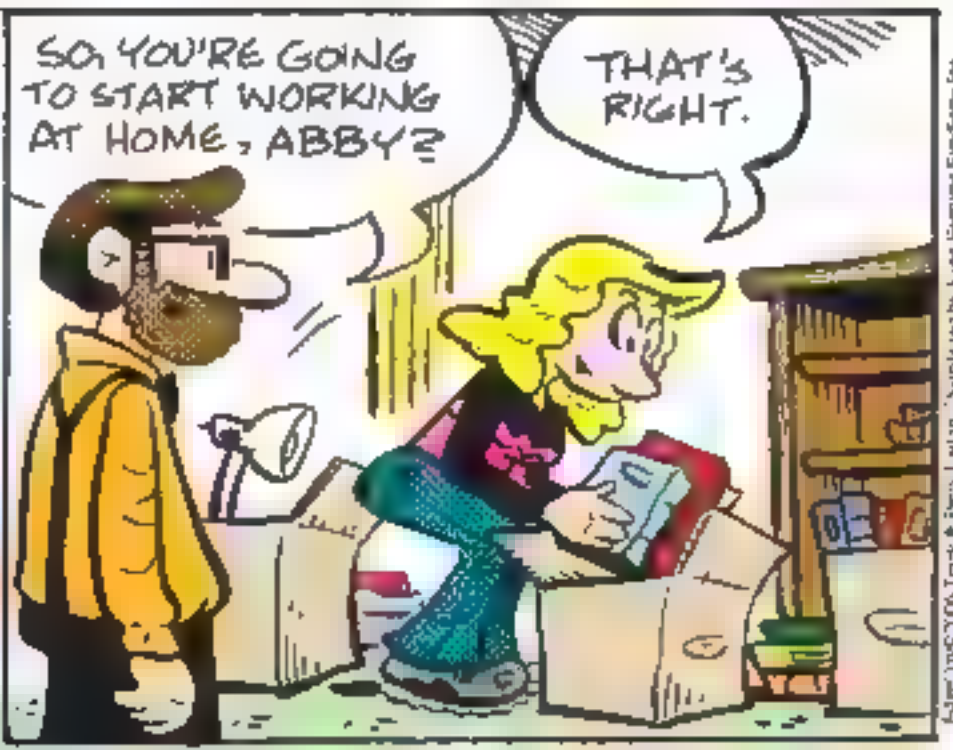

I'VE BEEN THINKING, LEN-- MAYBE I SHOULD START WORKING AT HOME.
3-22
I COULD SEE CLIENTS IN THE DEN. THERE'D BE NO RENT AND NO COMMUTE.
THEN THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY SEPARATION BETWEEN YOUR WORK AND YOUR LIFE.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF MY DREAMS.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF MY NIGHTMARES!


YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO SEE CLIENTS AT HOME, ABBY?
SURE! LOTS OF THERAPISTS WORK OUT OF THEIR HOUSES.
I WOULDN'T HAVE TO COMMUTE, AND I'D BE AROUND MORE FOR THE KIDS!
YEAH. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DOWNSIDE?
3-13
A LOT OF CRAZY PEOPLE WILL KNOW WHERE WE LIVE!
THEY'RE NOT CRAZY. THEY JUST HAVE ISSUES!

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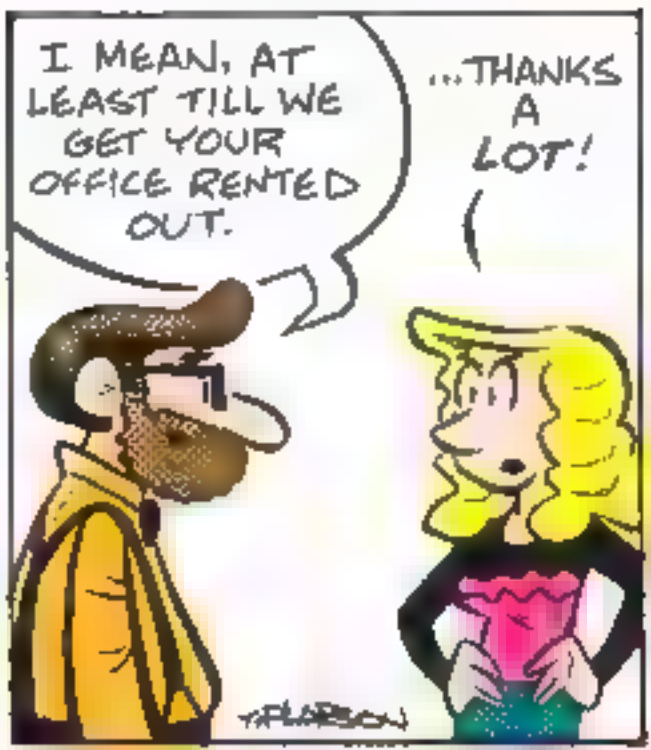
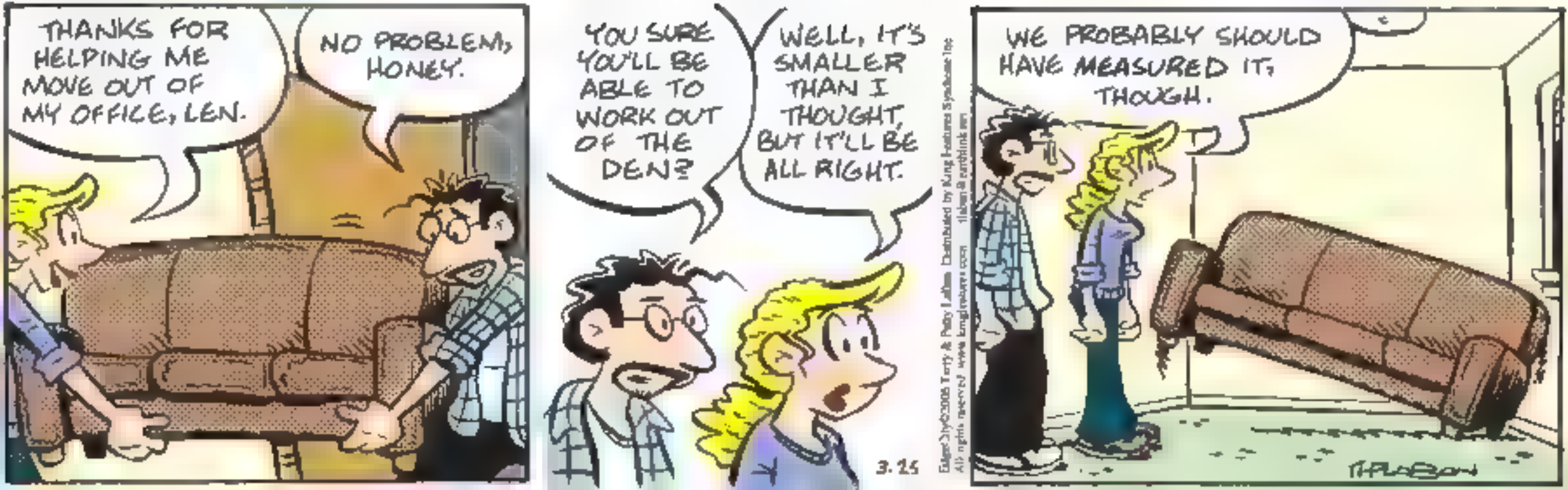
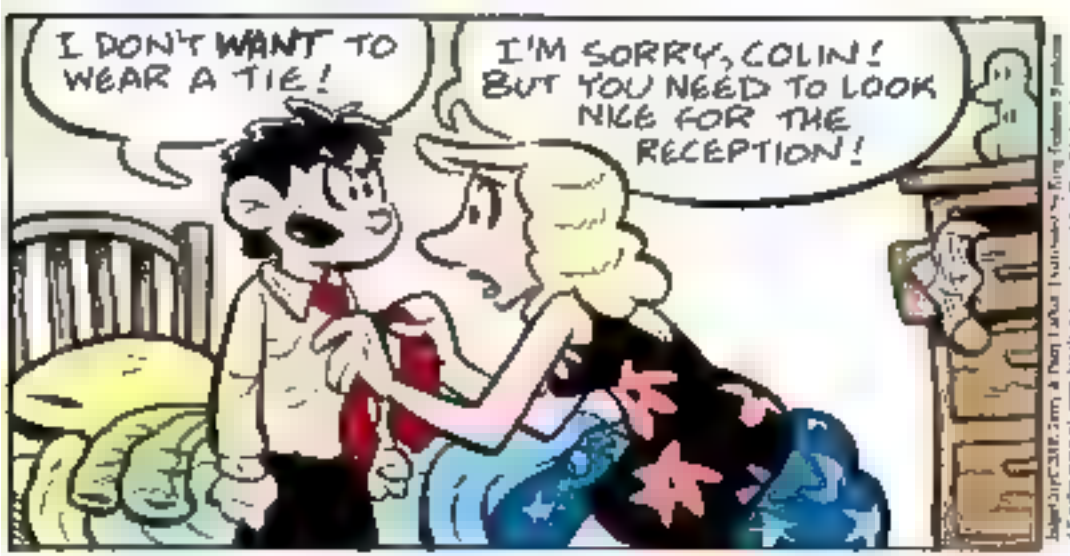



THANKS FOR HELPING ME MOVE OUT OF MY OFFICE, LEN.
NO PROBLEM, HONEY.
YOU SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT OF THE DEN?
WELL, IT'S SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT, BUT IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
3.25
WE PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE MEASURED IT, THOUGH.

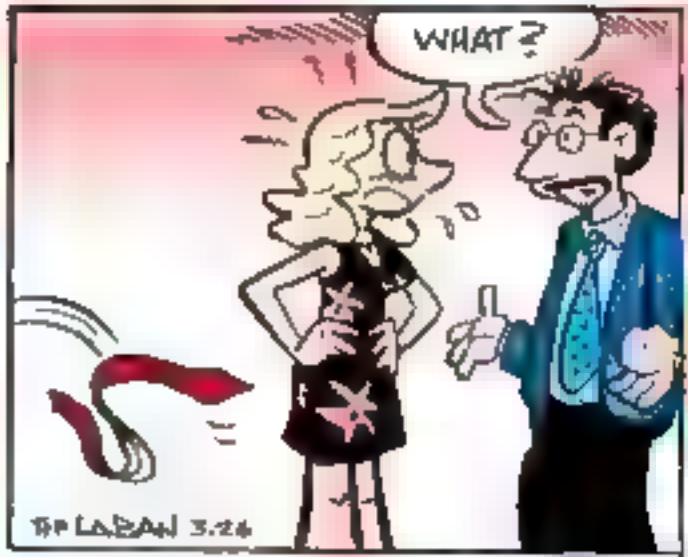

I DON'T WANT TO WEAR A TIE!
I'M SORRY, COLIN! BUT YOU NEED TO LOOK NICE FOR THE RECEPTION!

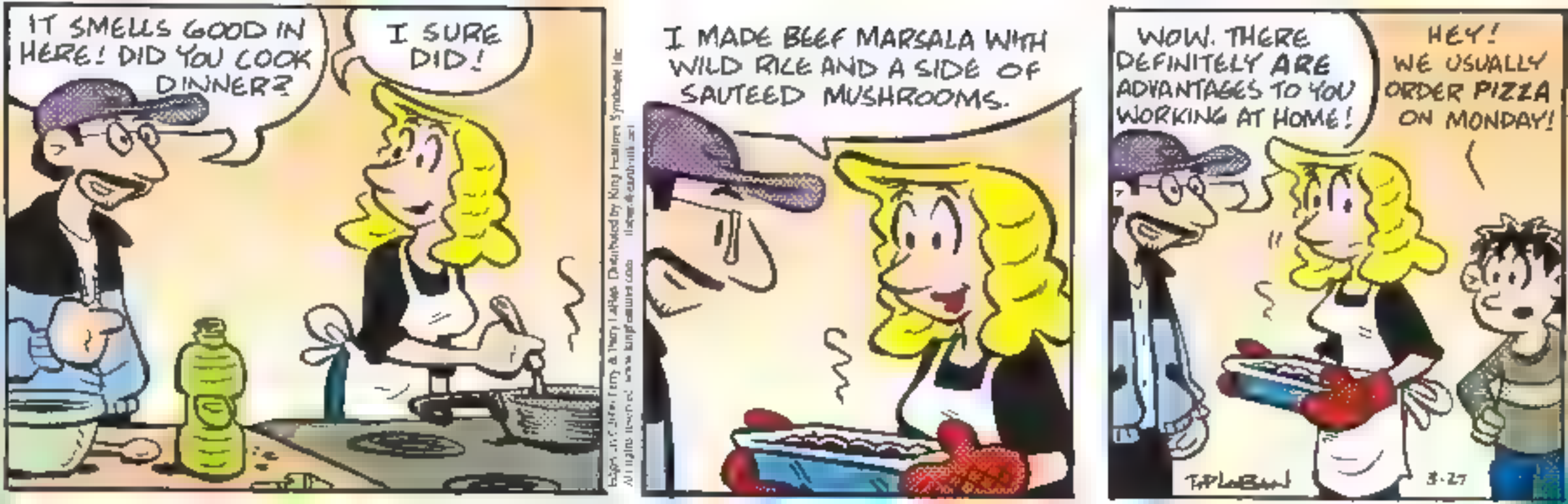
I'M GOING TO LOOK STUPID!
NO, YOU WON'T. YOU'LL LOOK JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

I STILL DON'T WANT TO WEAR A TIE!
PLEASE, HONEY? I'M ASKING YOU TO DO IT AS A FAVOR.

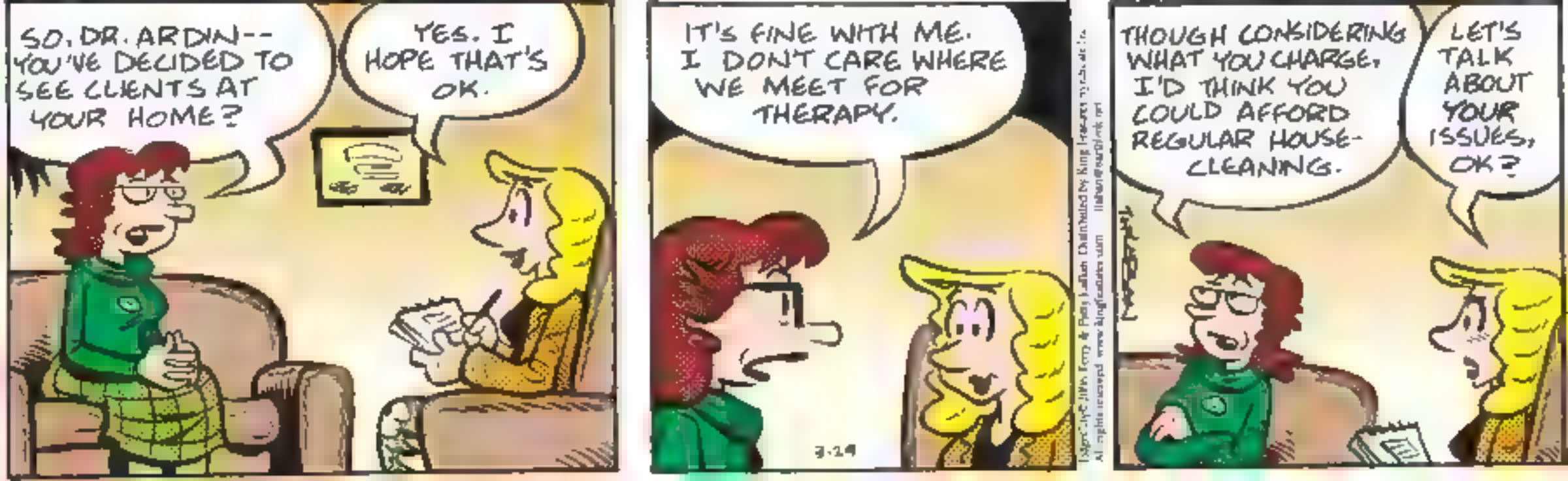
I'M SURE NO ONE WILL SAY ANYTHING. OK?
OH... ALL RIGHT.

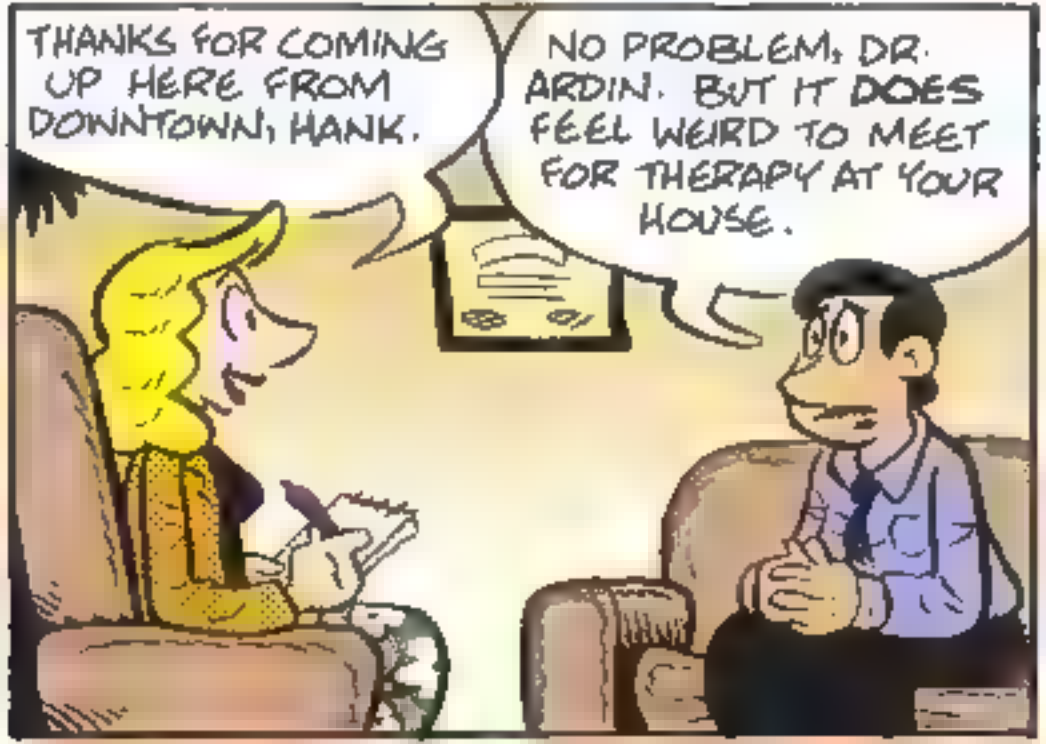
WOO HOO! HEY, COLIN-- LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE READY TO TAKE OVER THE BANK!


WHAT?
BP LABAN 3.26


IT SMELLS GOOD IN HERE! DID YOU COOK DINNER?
I SURE DID!
I MADE BEEF MARSALA WITH WILD RICE AND A SIDE OF SAUTEED MUSHROOMS.
WOW. THERE DEFINITELY ARE ADVANTAGES TO YOU WORKING AT HOME!
HEY! WE USUALLY ORDER PIZZA ON MONDAY!
3-27

AREN'T YOU GETTING DRESSED, ABBY?
THERE'S NO HURRY, LEN. I START SEEING CLIENTS AT MY HOME OFFICE TODAY.
NOW I CAN TAKE THE TIME I USED TO SPEND COMMUTING TO EAT BREAKFAST AND READ THE PAPER!
DR. ARDIN?
EVELYN! YOU'RE EARLY!
3-18


SO, DR. ARDIN-- YOU'VE DECIDED TO SEE CLIENTS AT YOUR HOME?
YES. I HOPE THAT'S OK.
IT'S FINE WITH ME. I DON'T CARE WHERE WE MEET FOR THERAPY.
3-24
THOUGH CONSIDERING WHAT YOU CHARGE, I'D THINK YOU COULD AFFORD REGULAR HOUSE-CLEANING.
LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR ISSUES, OK?



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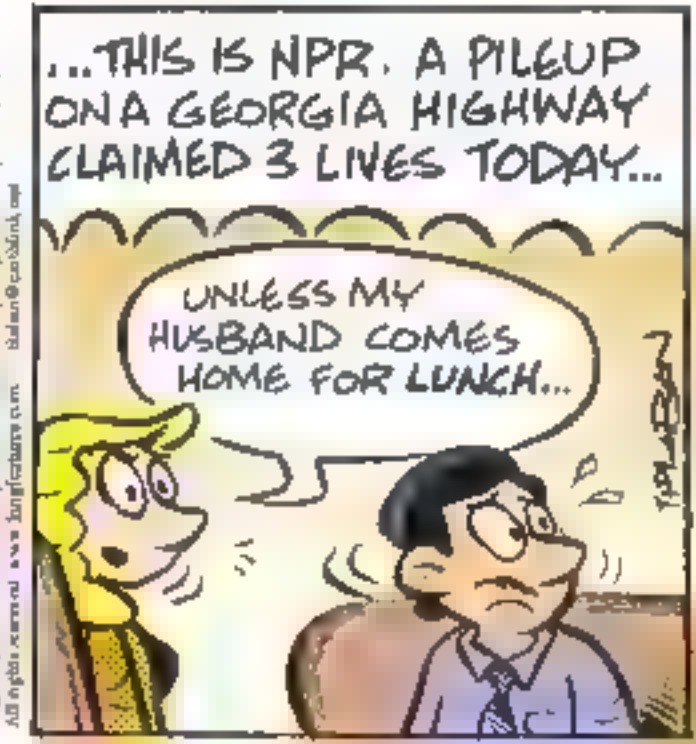

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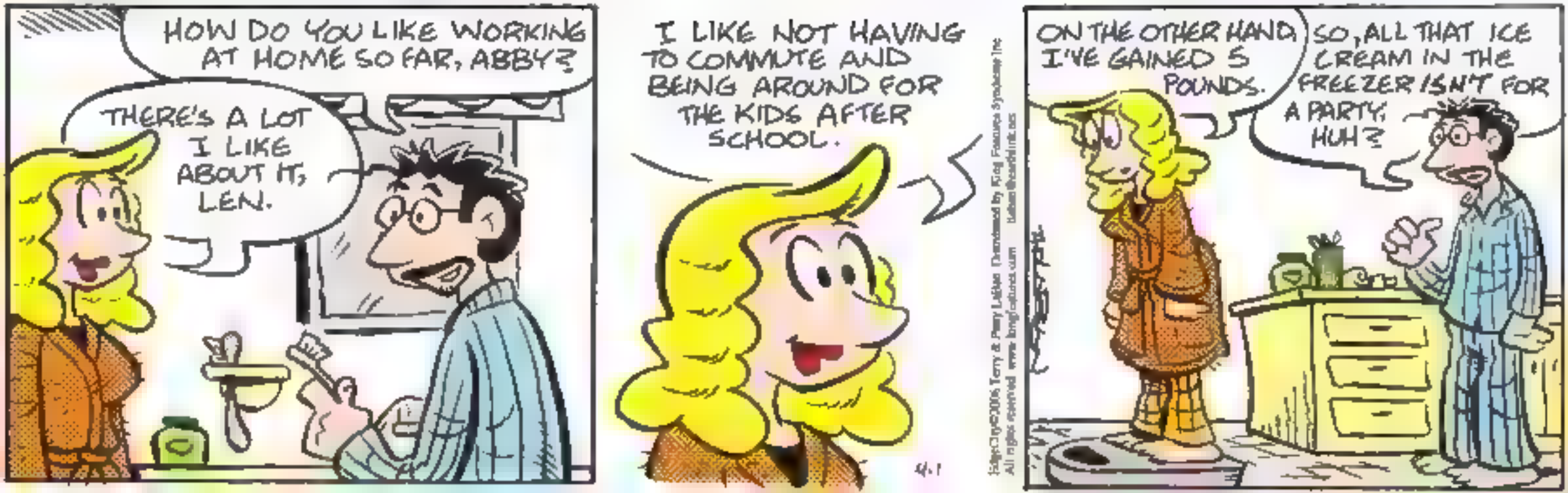

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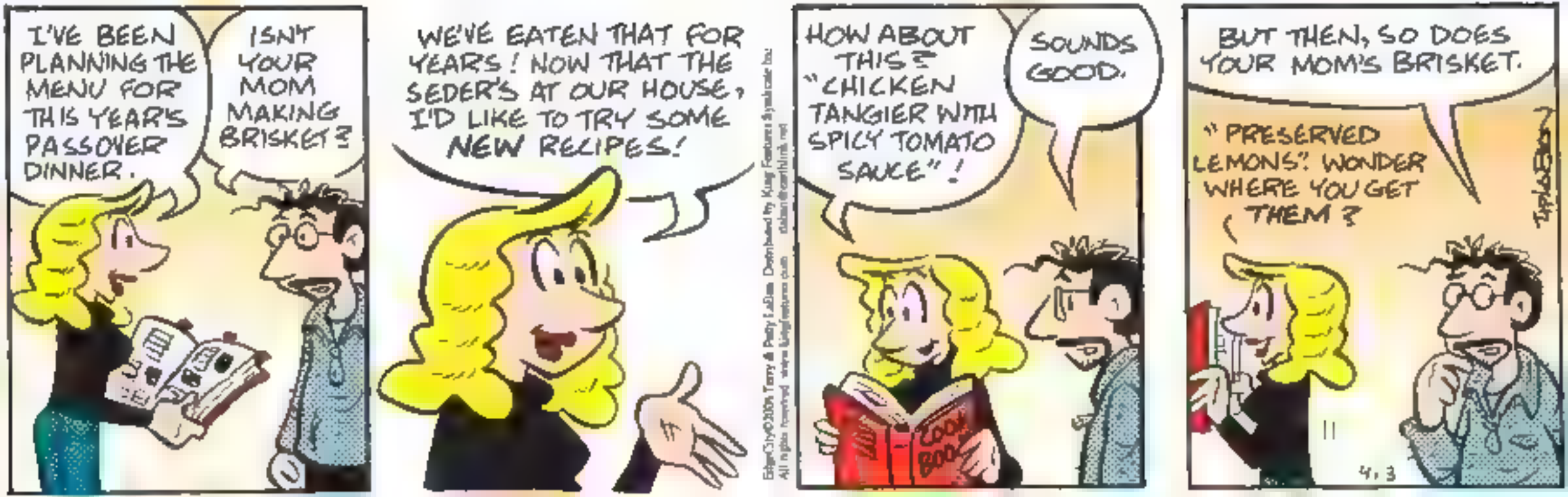
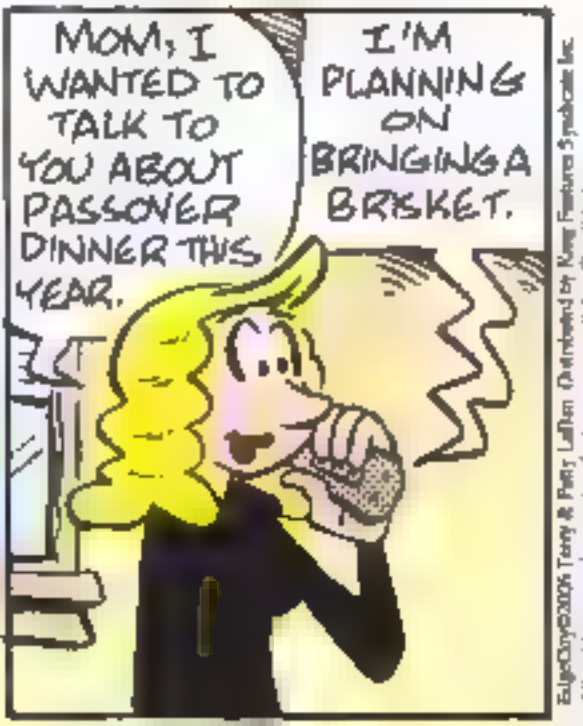
I'VE BEEN FEELING ANXIOUS LATELY, DR. ARDIN.
ABOUT WHAT, LYDIA?
GENERAL THINGS -- MY KID'S FUTURE, REAL ESTATE PRICES, THE WAR, GLOBAL WARMING...
I UNDERSTAND.
DO THOSE RELAXATION EXERCISES I GAVE YOU, AND TRY TO REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE JUST CAN'T CONTROL.
THANKS. IT HELPS JUST TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
I'M GLAD. SEE YOU NEXT WEEK, OK?
CLICK!
HOW WILL WE PAY FOR COLLEGE?
WILL THE WAR EVER END?
IT HAS BEEN WARM THIS YEAR...
I'VE BEEN FEELING ANXIOUS LATELY.


I'VE BEEN PLANNING THE MENU FOR THIS YEAR'S PASSOVER DINNER.
ISN'T YOUR MOM MAKING BRISKET?
WE'VE EATEN THAT FOR YEARS! NOW THAT THE SEDER'S AT OUR HOUSE, I'D LIKE TO TRY SOME NEW RECIPES!
HOW ABOUT THIS? "CHICKEN TANGIER WITH SPICY TOMATO SAUCE"!
SOUNDS GOOD.
BUT THEN, SO DOES YOUR MOM'S BRISKET.
"PRESERVED LEMONS". WONDER WHERE YOU GET THEM?
4.3

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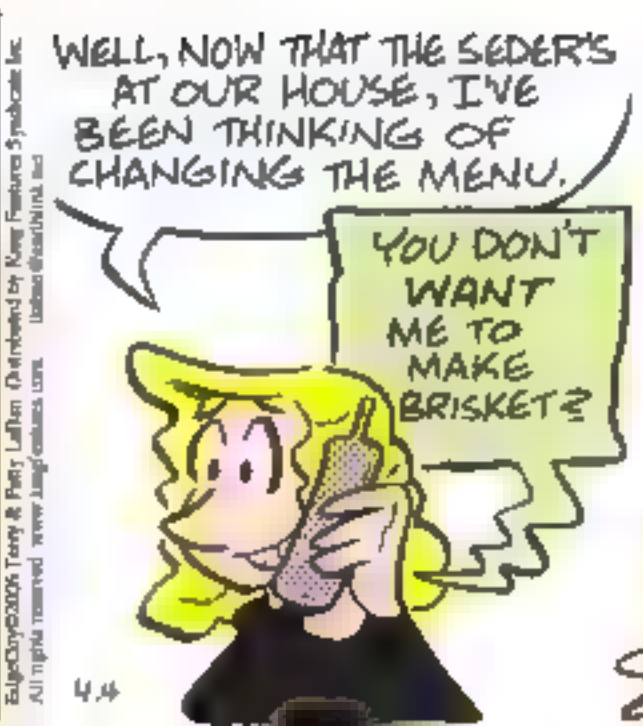
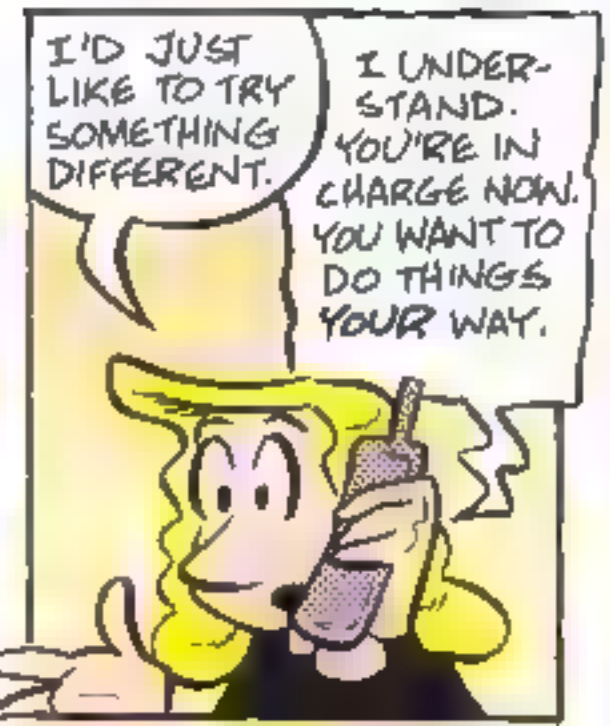
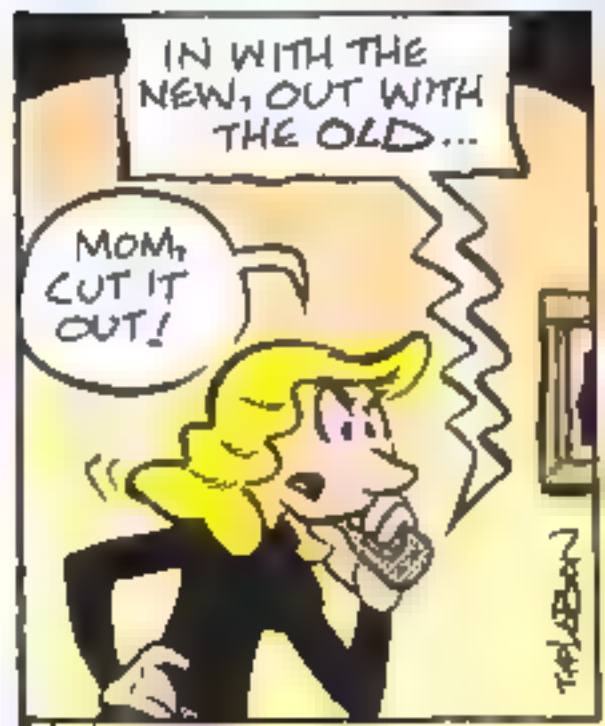
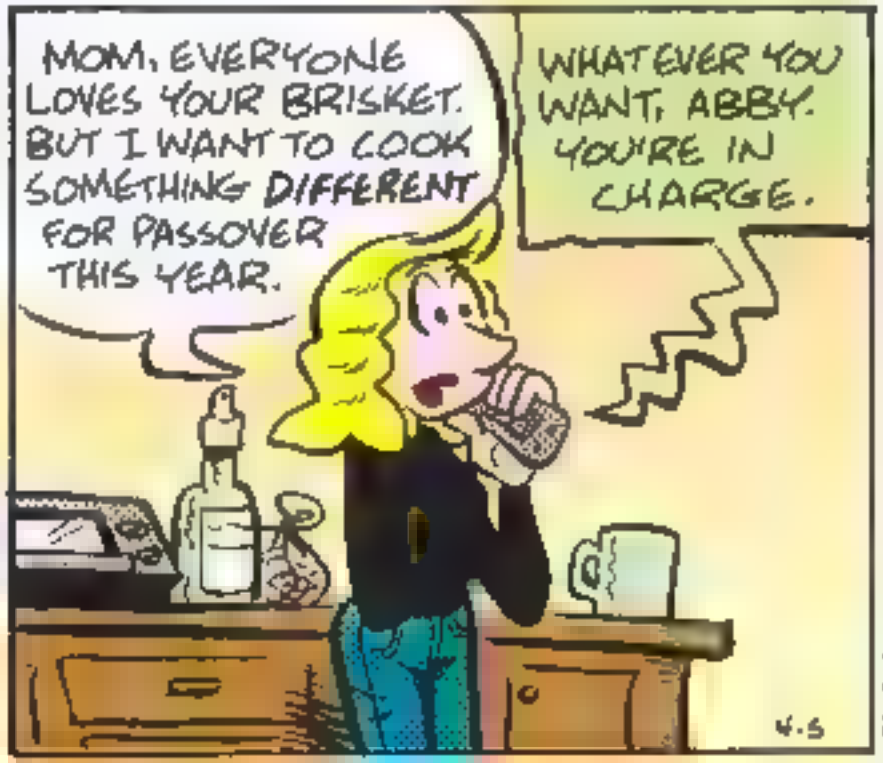
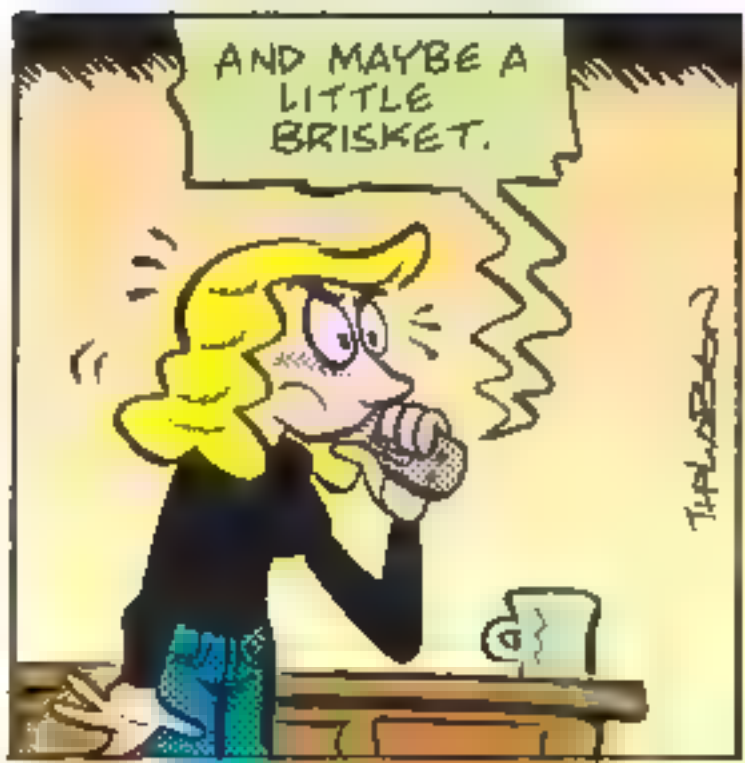


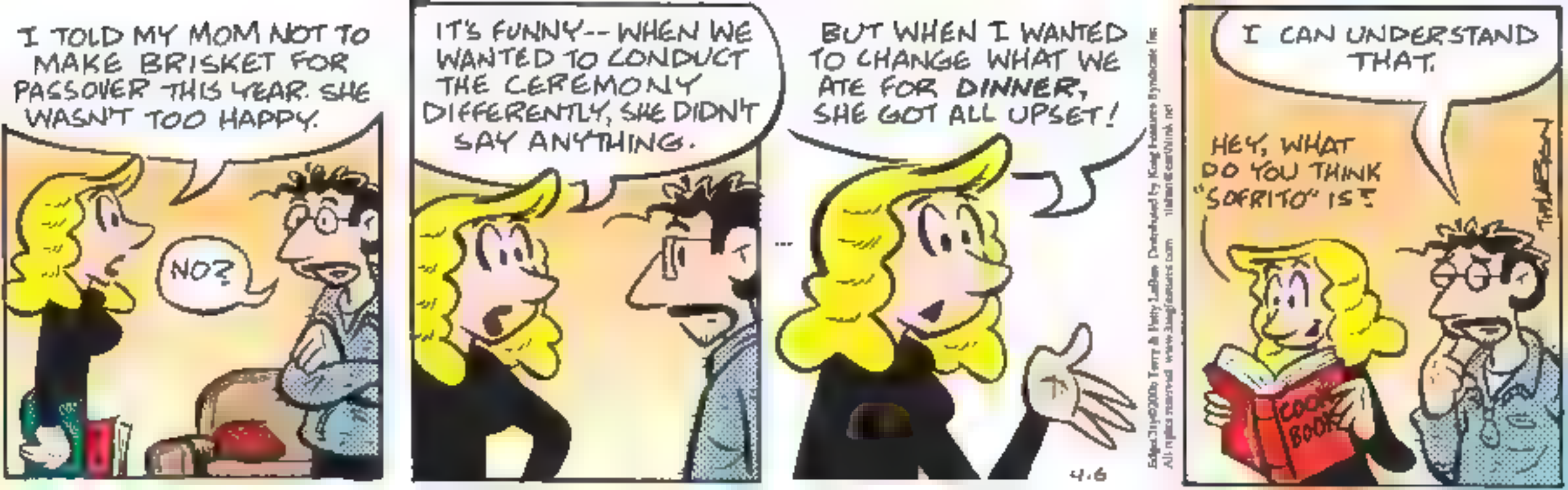



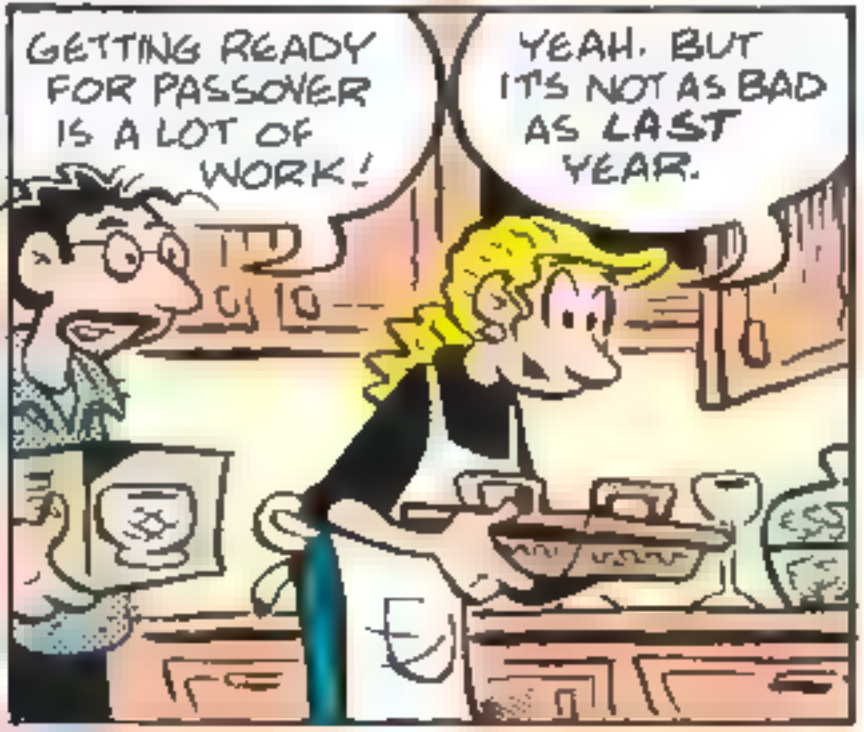




MOM, EVERYONE LOVES YOUR BRISKET. BUT I WANT TO COOK SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR PASSOVER THIS YEAR.
WHATEVER YOU WANT, ABBY. YOU'RE IN CHARGE.
4-5

I STILL NEED HELP. MAYBE YOU COULD MAKE A SIDE DISH.
A SIDE DISH? A SIDE DISH WOULD BE FINE.

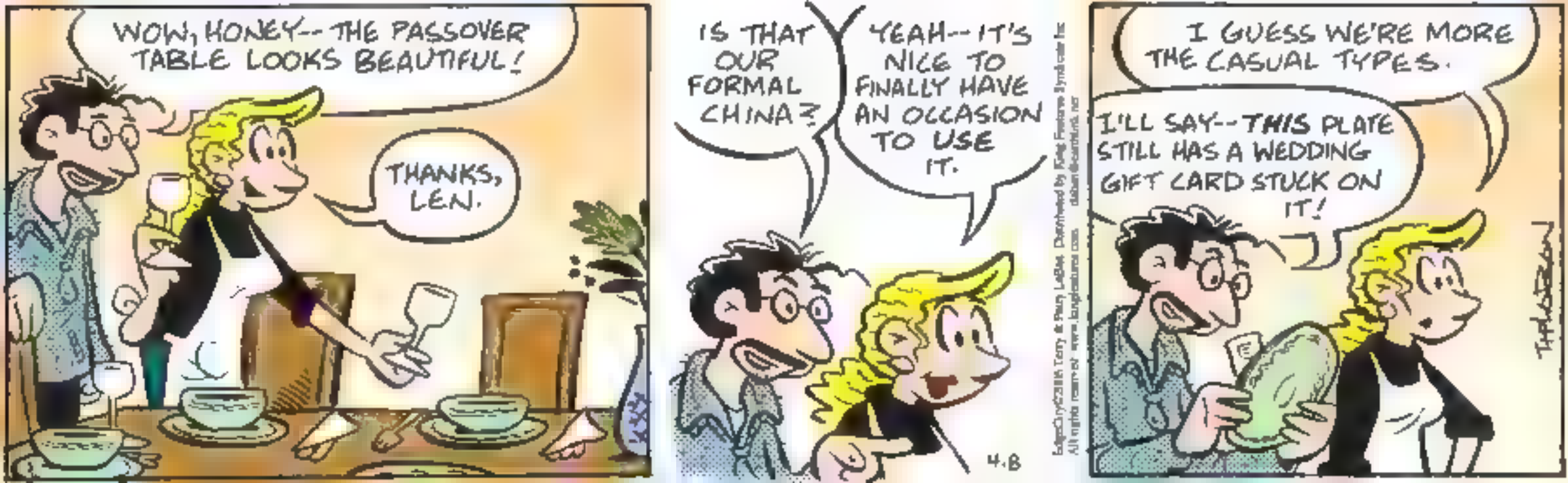

AND MAYBE A LITTLE BRISKET.
THALDEN


I TOLD MY MOM NOT TO MAKE BRISKET FOR PASSOVER THIS YEAR. SHE WASN'T TOO HAPPY.
NO?
IT'S FUNNY-- WHEN WE WANTED TO CONDUCT THE CEREMONY DIFFERENTLY, SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
BUT WHEN I WANTED TO CHANGE WHAT WE ATE FOR DINNER, SHE GOT ALL UPSET!
4.6
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT.
HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK "SOFRITO" IS?
COOK BOOK

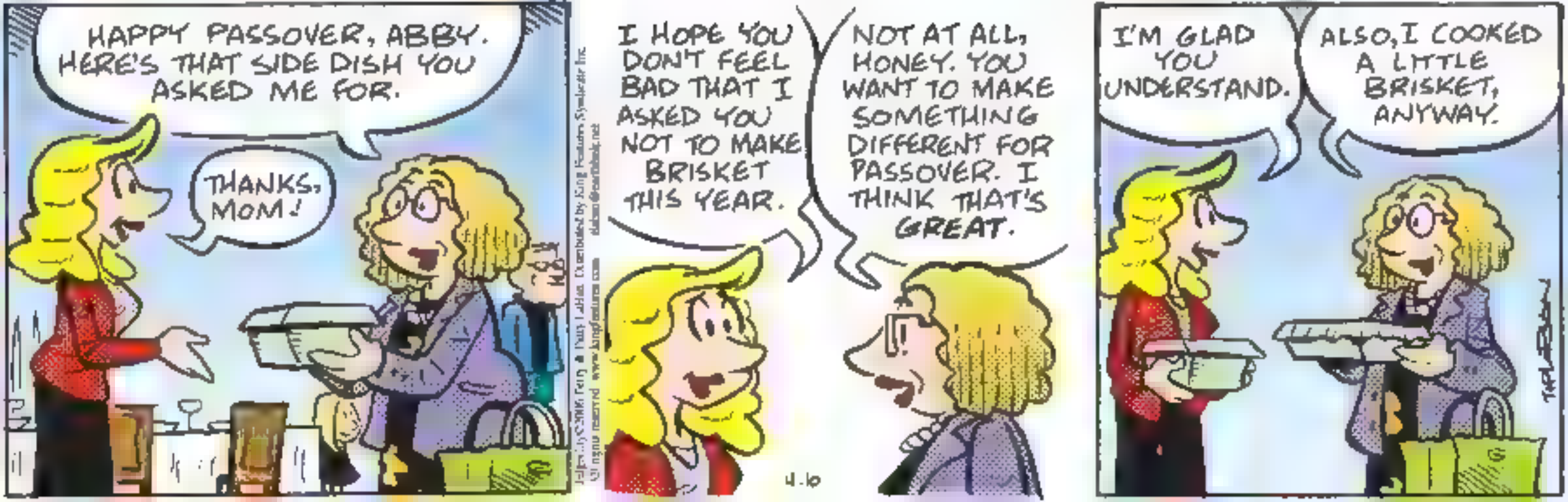

GETTING READY FOR PASSOVER IS A LOT OF WORK!
YEAH. BUT IT'S NOT AS BAD AS LAST YEAR.

AFTER YOU'VE DONE IT ONCE, YOU LEARN TRICKS TO MAKE IT GO EASIER.
LIKE WHAT?
4-7

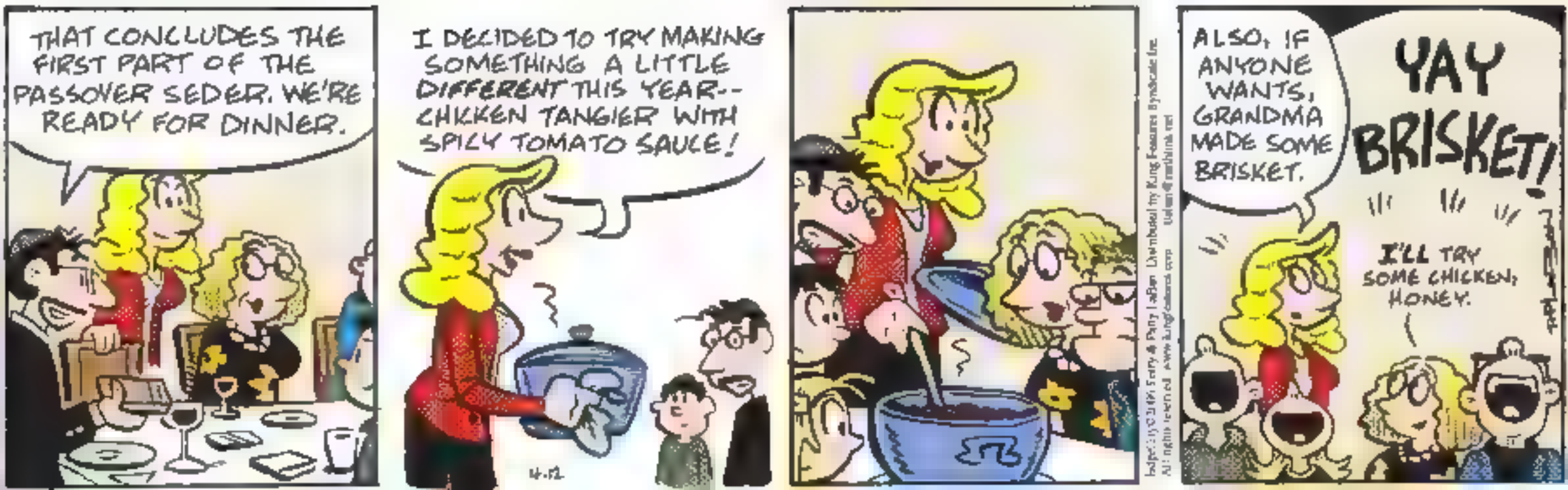
HIRE SOMEONE!
THE SILVERWARE IS POLISHED, MRS. ARDIN. WHAT'S NEXT?

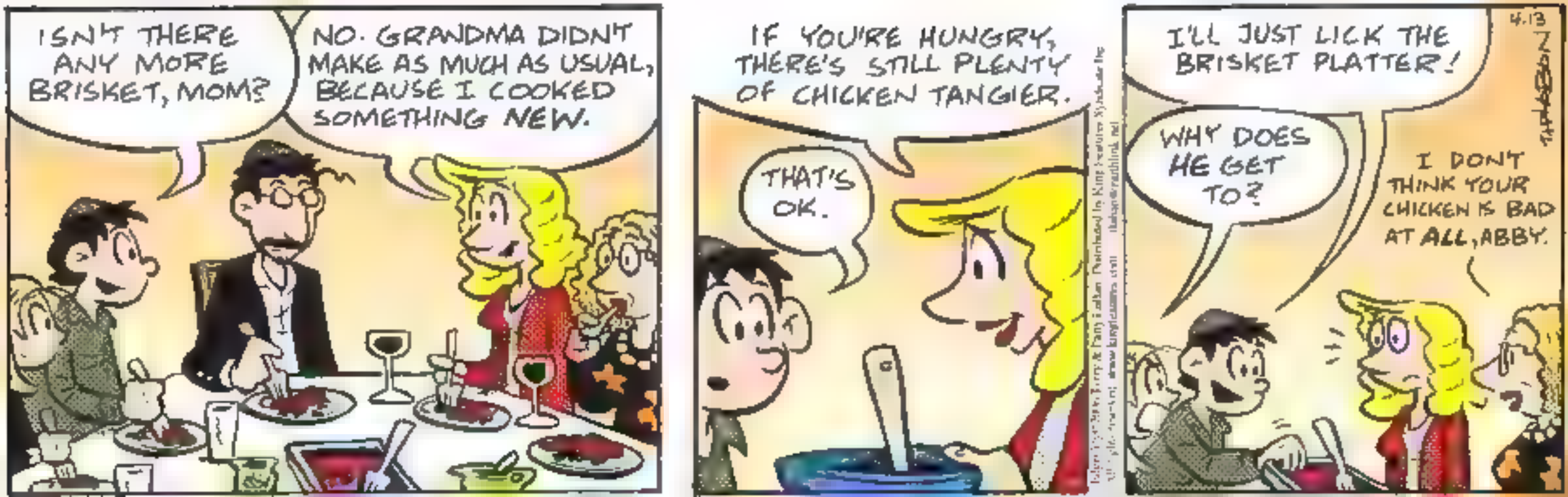

WOW, HONEY-- THE PASSOVER TABLE LOOKS BEAUTIFUL!
THANKS, LEN.
IS THAT OUR FORMAL CHINA?
YEAH-- IT'S NICE TO FINALLY HAVE AN OCCASION TO USE IT.
4.8
I GUESS WE'RE MORE THE CASUAL TYPES.
I'LL SAY-- THIS PLATE STILL HAS A WEDDING GIFT CARD STUCK ON IT!

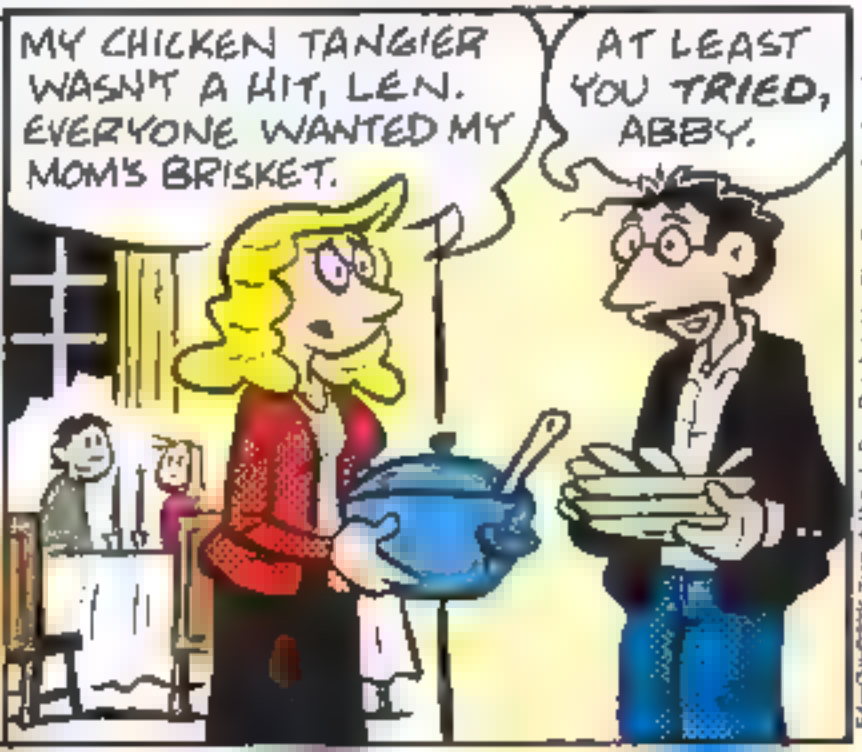
MOM, I'M AT THE STORE SHOPPING FOR PASSOVER. WHAT DO I NEED FOR MATZO BALL SOUP?
MATZO BALL MIX. THE ONE IN THE ORANGE BOX.
THIS ONE? IT'S FILLED WITH ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENTS!
IT MAKES GOOD MATZO BALLS, ABBY. I'VE USED IT FOR YEARS.
WELL, I DON'T LIKE FEEDING MY FAMILY STUFF LIKE THIS. I'D RATHER JUST MAKE THEM FROM SCRATCH!
ANYONE WANT MORE MATZO BALLS?
THESE ARE MATZO BALLS?!


HAPPY PASSOVER, ABBY. HERE'S THAT SIDE DISH YOU ASKED ME FOR.
THANKS, MOM!
I HOPE YOU DON'T FEEL BAD THAT I ASKED YOU NOT TO MAKE BRISKET THIS YEAR.
NOT AT ALL, HONEY. YOU WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR PASSOVER. I THINK THAT'S GREAT.
I'M GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND.
ALSO, I COOKED A LITTLE BRISKET, ANYWAY.
4-10

YOU KNOW-- ONE OF THE THINGS I LOVE ABOUT PASSOVER IS ALL THE TRADITIONS.
EVERY YEAR WE EAT MATZO... ASK THE 4 QUESTIONS ...TELL THE STORY OF THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT...
4-11
AND EAT GRANDMA'S BRISKET!
ER... ACTUALLY, I COOKED UP A NEW TRADITION THIS YEAR...


THAT CONCLUDES THE FIRST PART OF THE PASSOVER SEDER. WE'RE READY FOR DINNER.
I DECIDED TO TRY MAKING SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR-- CHICKEN TANGIER WITH SPICY TOMATO SAUCE!
4-12
ALSO, IF ANYONE WANTS, GRANDMA MADE SOME BRISKET.
YAY BRISKET!
I'LL TRY SOME CHICKEN, HONEY.


ISN'T THERE ANY MORE BRISKET, MOM?
NO. GRANDMA DIDN'T MAKE AS MUCH AS USUAL, BECAUSE I COOKED SOMETHING NEW.
IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF CHICKEN TANGIER.
THAT'S OK.
I'LL JUST LICK THE BRISKET PLATTER!
WHY DOES HE GET TO?
I DON'T THINK YOUR CHICKEN IS BAD AT ALL, ABBY.
4.13

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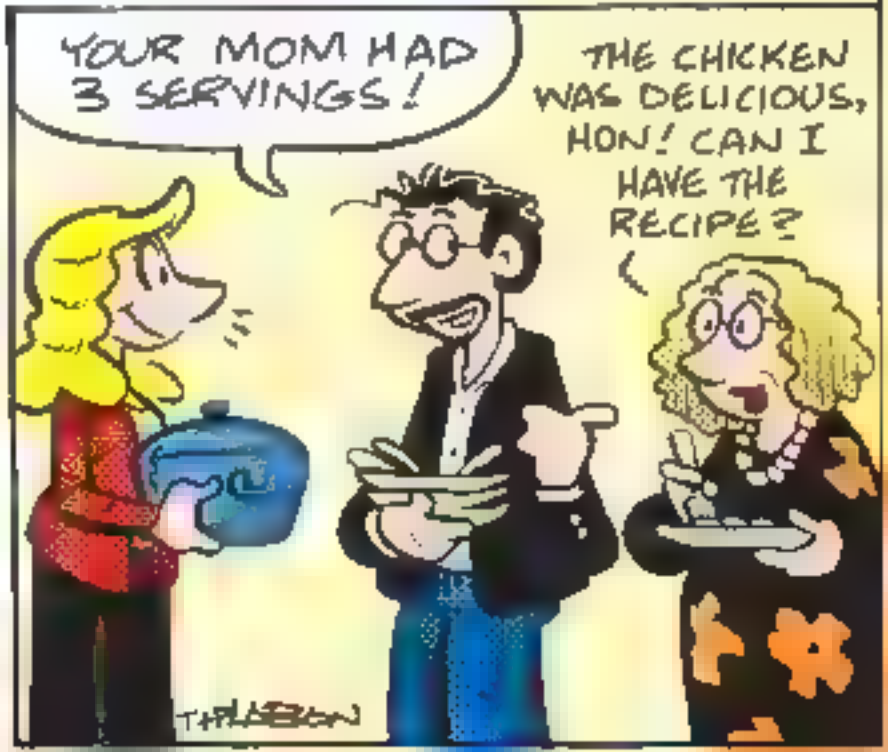
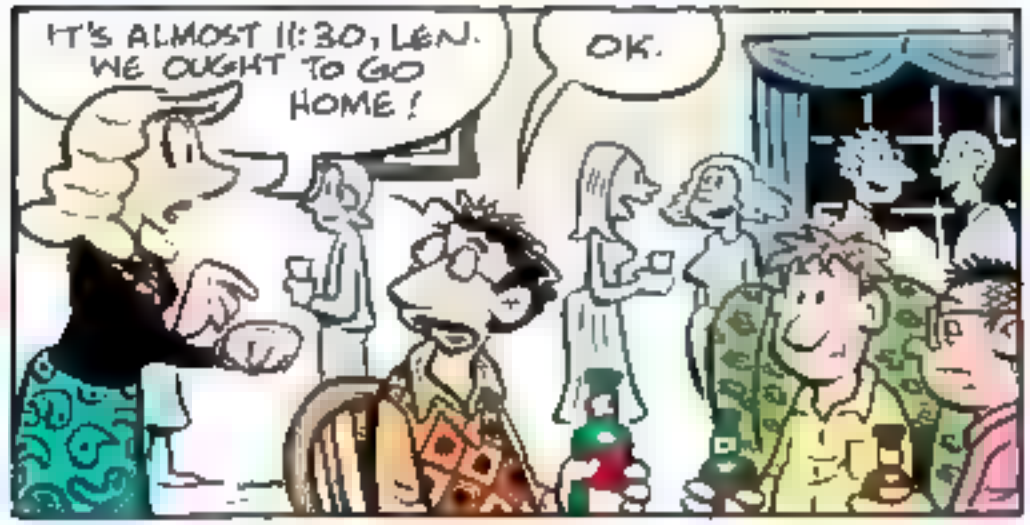
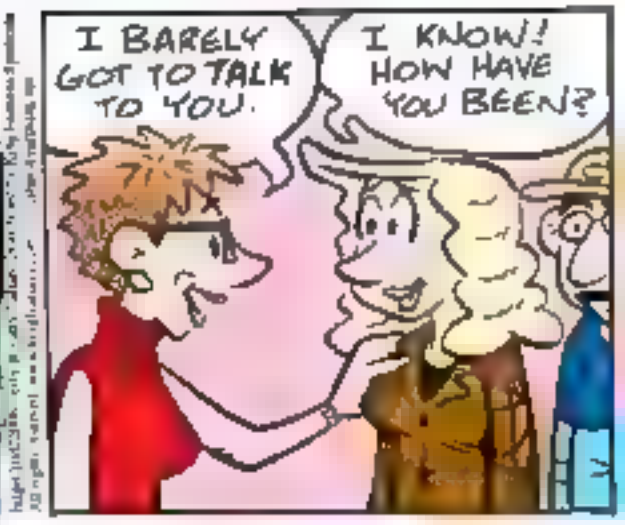


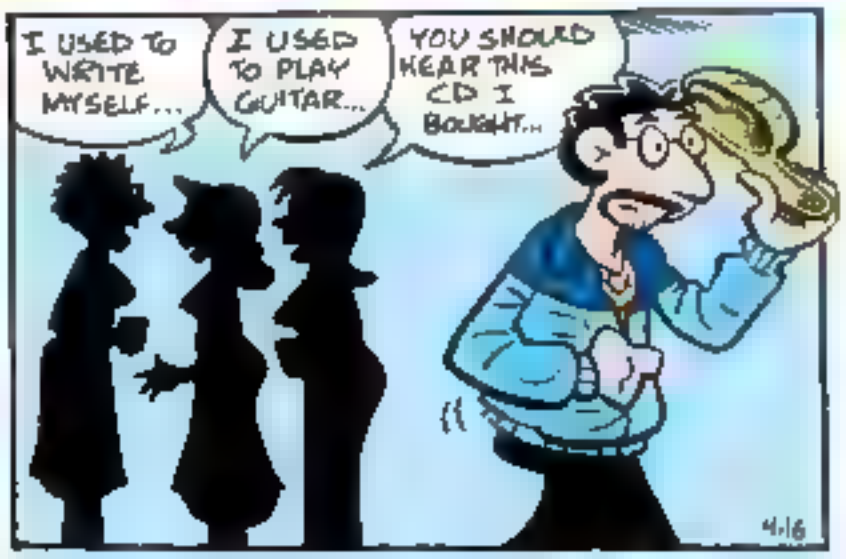
WELL, WE HOSTED ANOTHER PASSOVER SEDER!
YEAH. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S OUR SECOND ONE ALREADY.
BEFORE LAST YEAR, I THOUGHT OF A PASSOVER SEDER AS SOMETHING MY MOM MADE. BUT NOW IT SEEMS NORMAL FOR US TO DO IT.
I GUESS THAT MEANS WE'RE GROWNUPS, HUH?
YEAH. BUT WE'RE DEFINITELY THE COOL KIND.


IT'S ALMOST 11:30, LEN. WE OUGHT TO GO HOME!
OK.

GREAT PARTY, EMILY! THANKS FOR INVITING US!
THANKS FOR COMING, YOU GUYS!

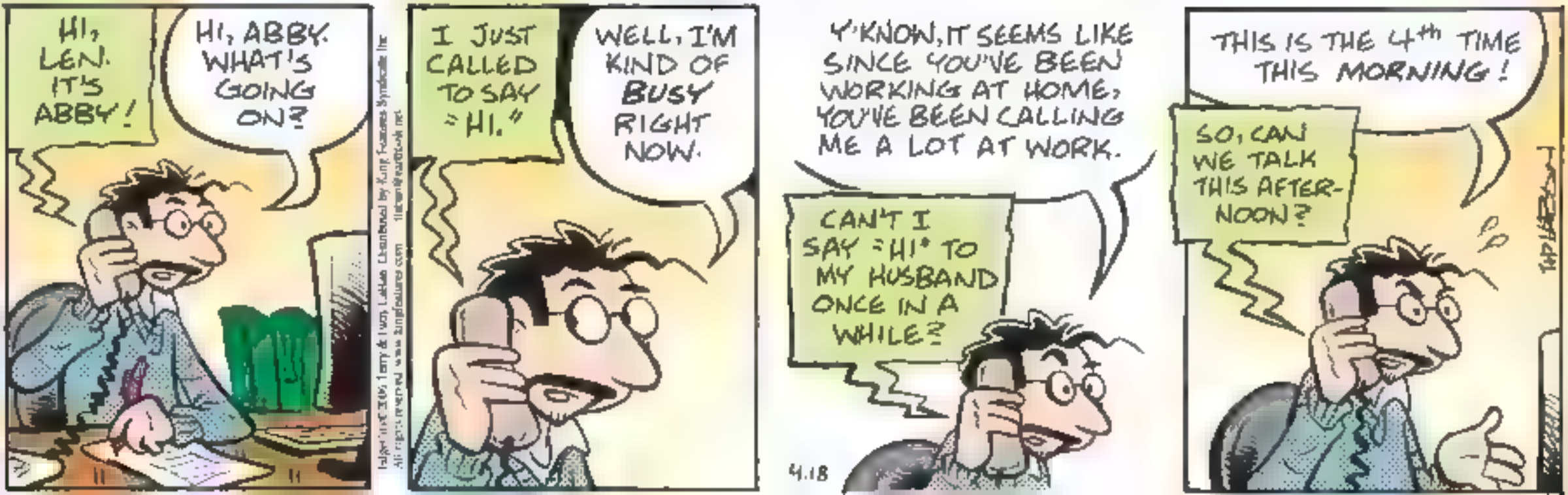

I BARELY GOT TO TALK TO YOU.
I KNOW! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

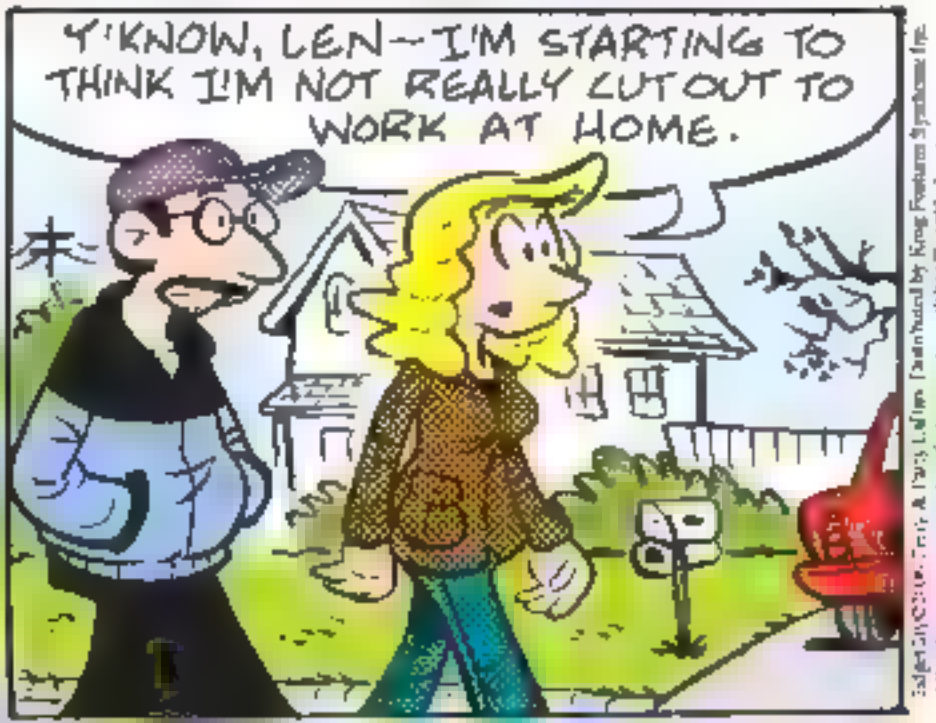
GREAT! MY DAUGHTER WON SECOND PRIZE IN THE STATE POETRY CONTEST!
NO KIDDING!
HAVE YOU SEEN AMELIA'S POEMS? THEY'RE BRILLIANT!


I USED TO WRITE MYSELF...
I USED TO PLAY GUITAR...
YOU SHOULD HEAR THIS CD I BOUGHT...
4-16

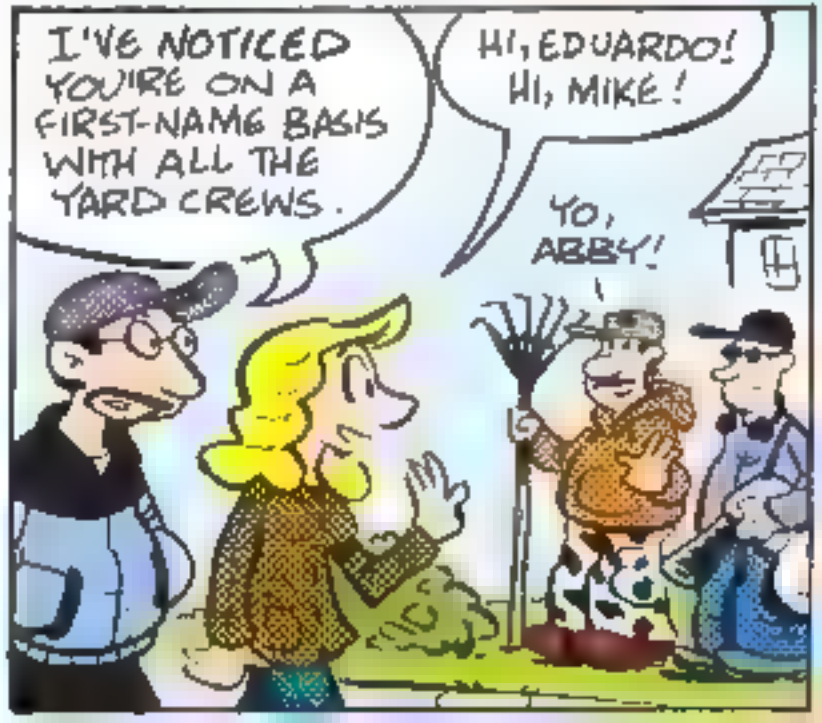
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING HOME.
NAW — WE NEVER LEAVE TILL AT LEAST THE 3rd TRY.
PSHAW!

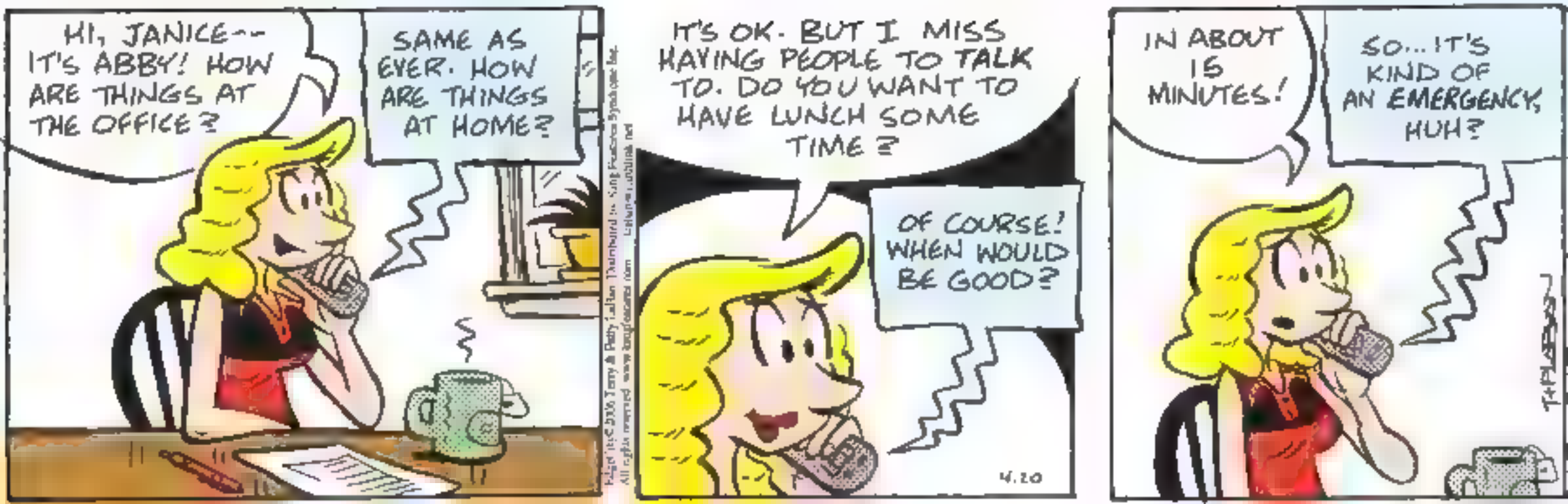
HI, GUYS! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO THIS AFTERNOON?
DO?
4.17
NOW THAT I'M WORKING AT HOME, I'M AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH HOMEWORK, GO ON OUTINGS, BAKE COOKIES, OR JUST HANG OUT!
I'M THE AFTER-SCHOOL MOM OF YOUR DREAMS!
THANKS, BUT I THINK WE'RE GOOD.
I'M GOING TO ASHLEY'S.

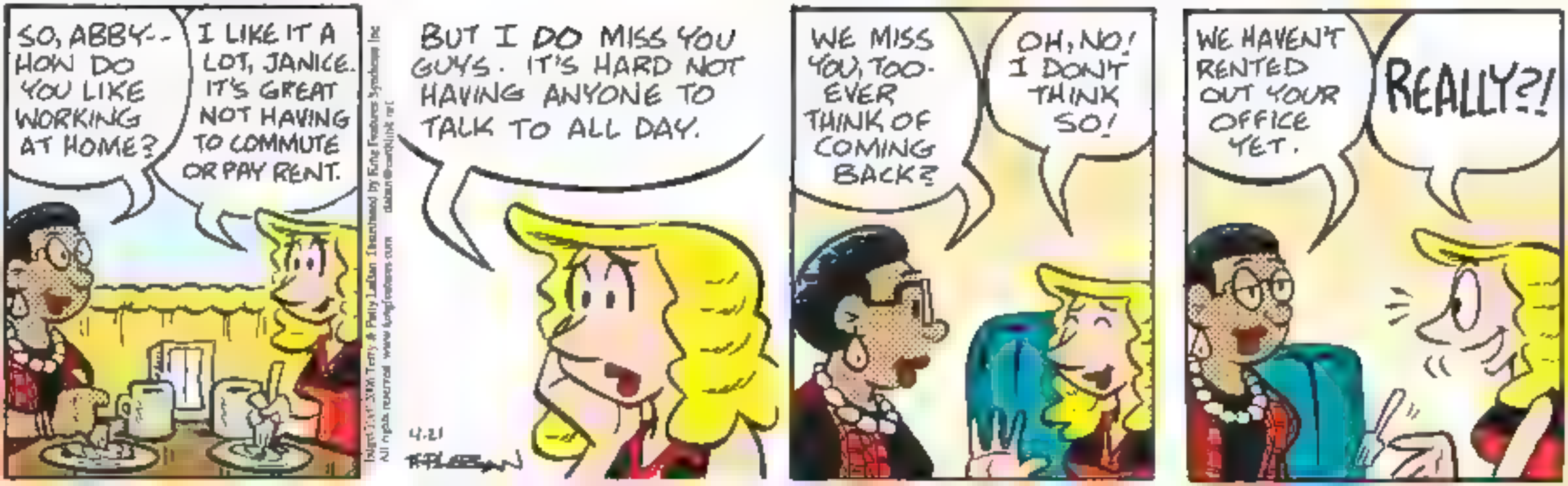

HI, LEN. IT'S ABBY!
HI, ABBY. WHAT'S GOING ON?
I JUST CALLED TO SAY "HI."
WELL, I'M KIND OF BUSY RIGHT NOW.
Y'KNOW, IT SEEMS LIKE SINCE YOU'VE BEEN WORKING AT HOME, YOU'VE BEEN CALLING ME A LOT AT WORK.
CAN'T I SAY "HI" TO MY HUSBAND ONCE IN A WHILE?
4.18
THIS IS THE 4th TIME THIS MORNING!
SO, CAN WE TALK THIS AFTER-NOON?

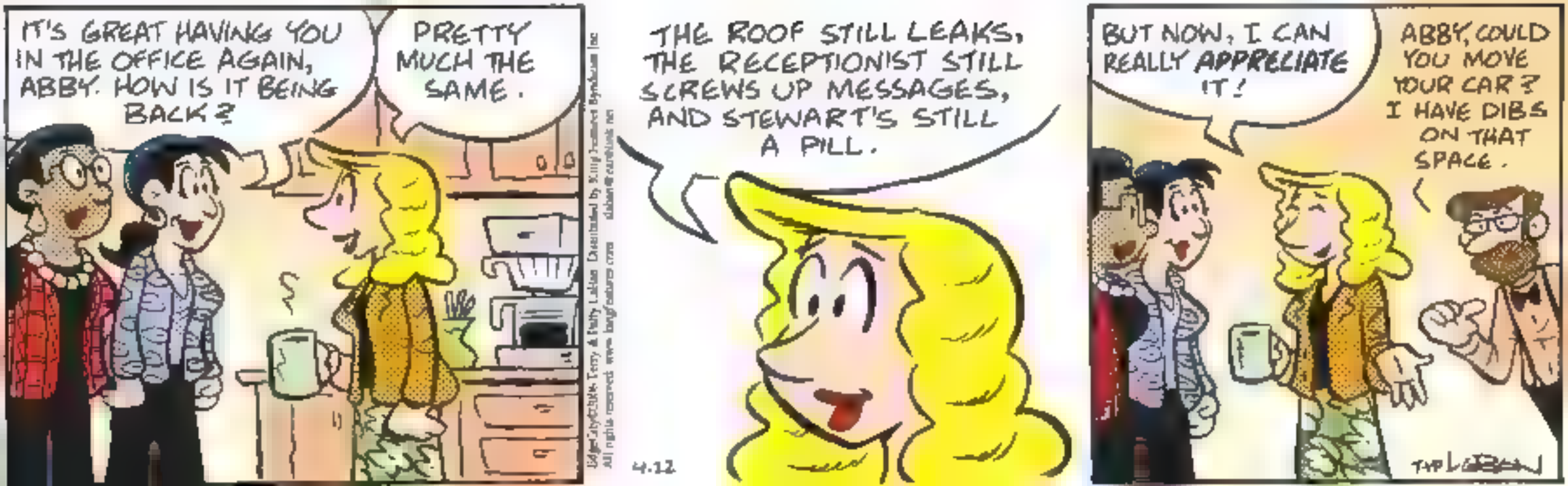

Y'KNOW, LEN—I'M STARTING TO THINK I'M NOT REALLY CUT OUT TO WORK AT HOME.

I'M A PEOPLE PERSON! IF I DON'T HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK TO PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY, I DON'T FEEL RIGHT.

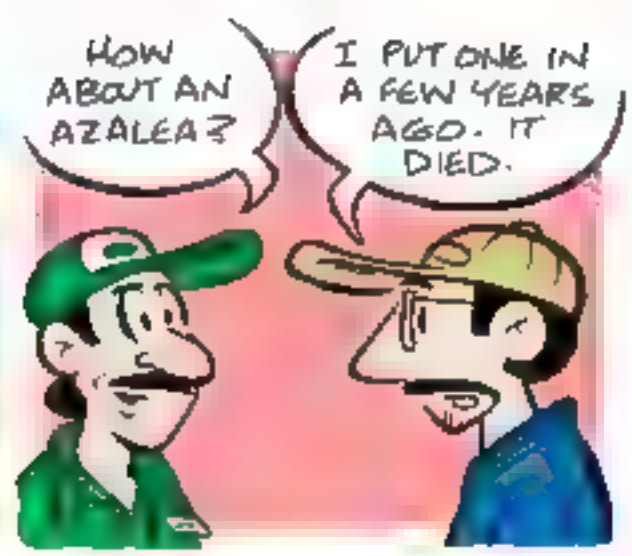

I'VE NOTICED YOU'RE ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS WITH ALL THE YARD CREWS.
HI, EDUARDO! HI, MIKE!
YO, ABBY!

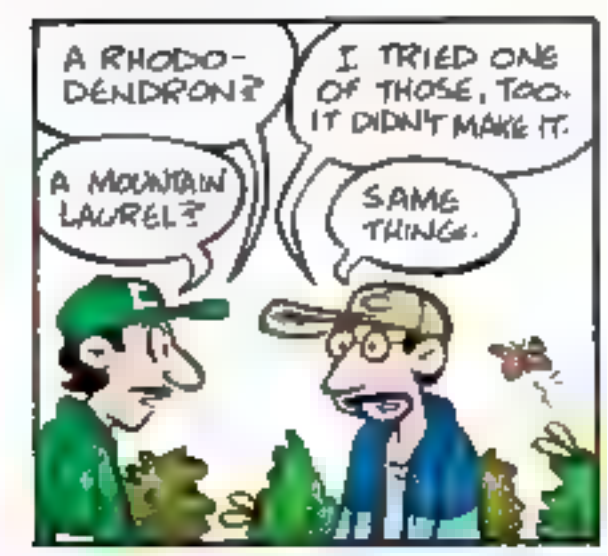

HI, JANICE-- IT'S ABBY! HOW ARE THINGS AT THE OFFICE?
SAME AS EVER. HOW ARE THINGS AT HOME?
IT'S OK. BUT I MISS HAVING PEOPLE TO TALK TO. DO YOU WANT TO HAVE LUNCH SOME TIME?
OF COURSE! WHEN WOULD BE GOOD?
4.20
IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES!
SO... IT'S KIND OF AN EMERGENCY, HUH?


SO, ABBY-- HOW DO YOU LIKE WORKING AT HOME?
I LIKE IT A LOT, JANICE. IT'S GREAT NOT HAVING TO COMMUTE OR PAY RENT.
BUT I DO MISS YOU GUYS. IT'S HARD NOT HAVING ANYONE TO TALK TO ALL DAY.
WE MISS YOU, TOO. EVER THINK OF COMING BACK?
OH, NO! I DON'T THINK SO!
WE HAVEN'T RENTED OUT YOUR OFFICE YET.
REALLY?!


IT'S GREAT HAVING YOU IN THE OFFICE AGAIN, ABBY. HOW IS IT BEING BACK?
PRETTY MUCH THE SAME.
THE ROOF STILL LEAKS, THE RECEPTIONIST STILL SCREWS UP MESSAGES, AND STEWART'S STILL A PILL.
BUT NOW, I CAN REALLY APPRECIATE IT!
ABBY, COULD YOU MOVE YOUR CAR? I HAVE DIBS ON THAT SPACE.
4.12

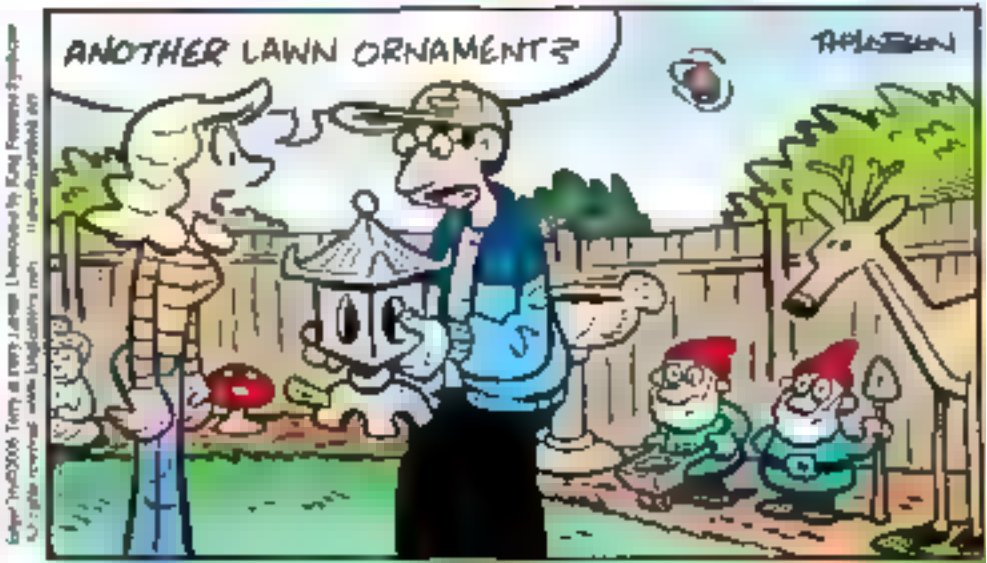
CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
I HOPE SO. I NEED SOMETHING FOR A DRY-ISH SPOT. SOME SUN, BUT MOSTLY SHADE.

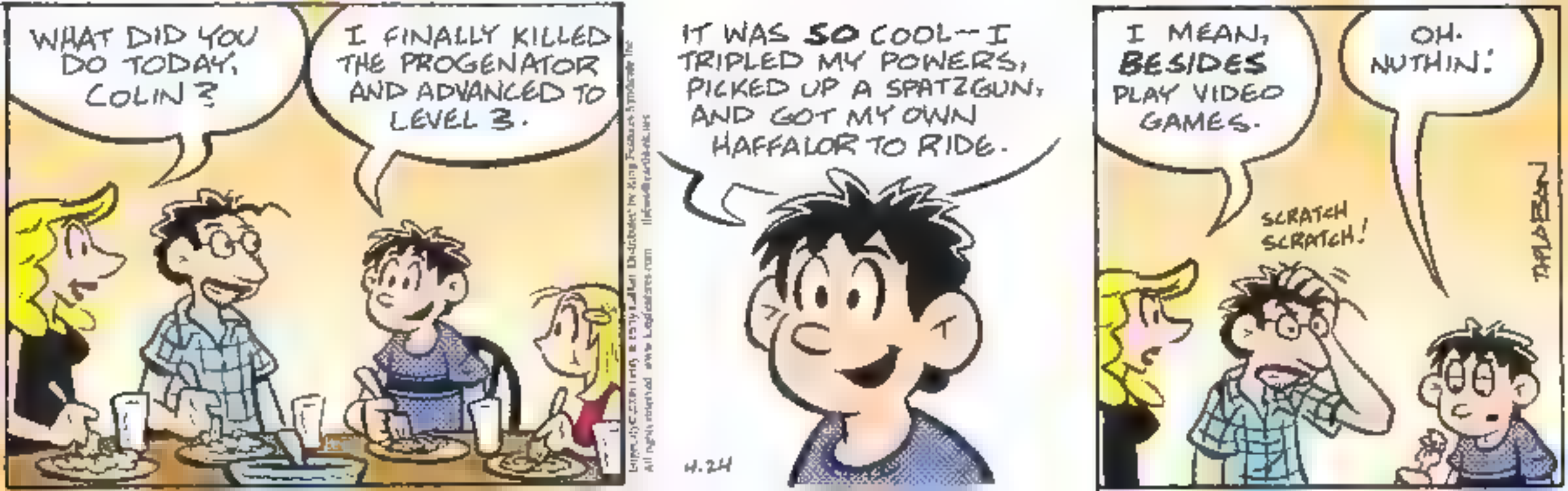

HOW ABOUT AN AZALEA?
I PUT ONE IN A FEW YEARS AGO. IT DIED.


A RHODO-DENDRON?
I TRIED ONE OF THOSE, TOO. IT DIDN'T MAKE IT.
A MOUNTAIN LAUREL?
SAME THING.

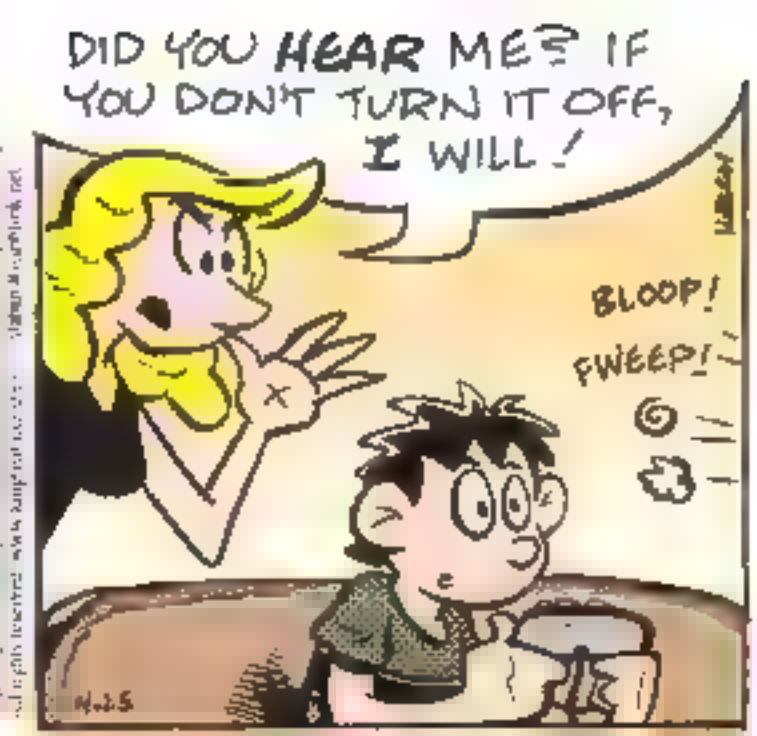
A JAPANESE MAPLE?
DIDN'T LAST.
A PEONY?
NOPE
HOSTAS?
KILLED 'EM.
HOLLY BUSH?
CROAKED.

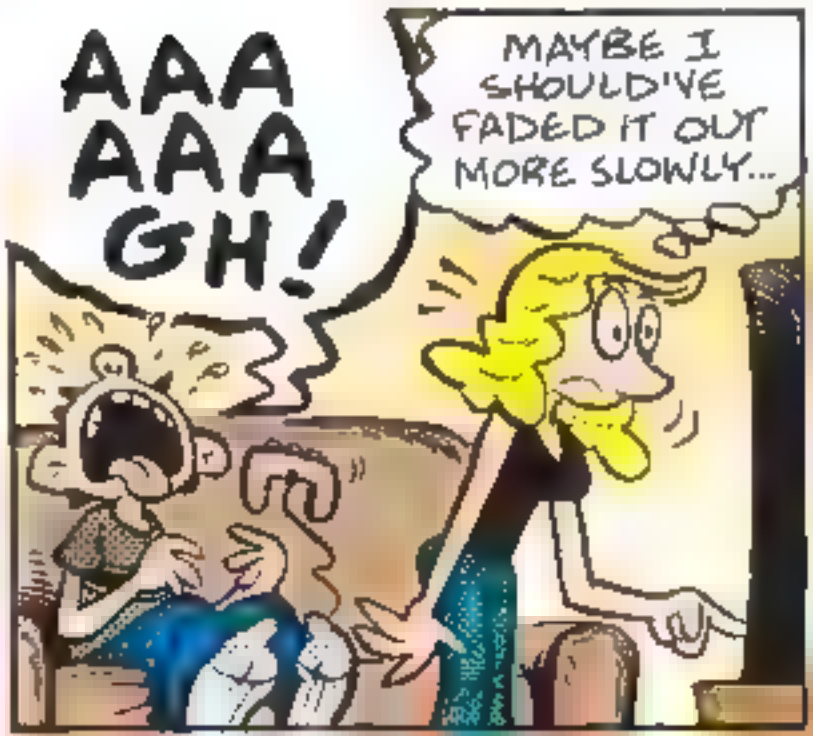
WHAT CAN I TELL YOU, SIR? YOU HAVEN'T HAD MUCH LUCK WITH YOUR PLANTS!
WELL, I NEED TO PUT SOMETHING IN THAT SPOT!

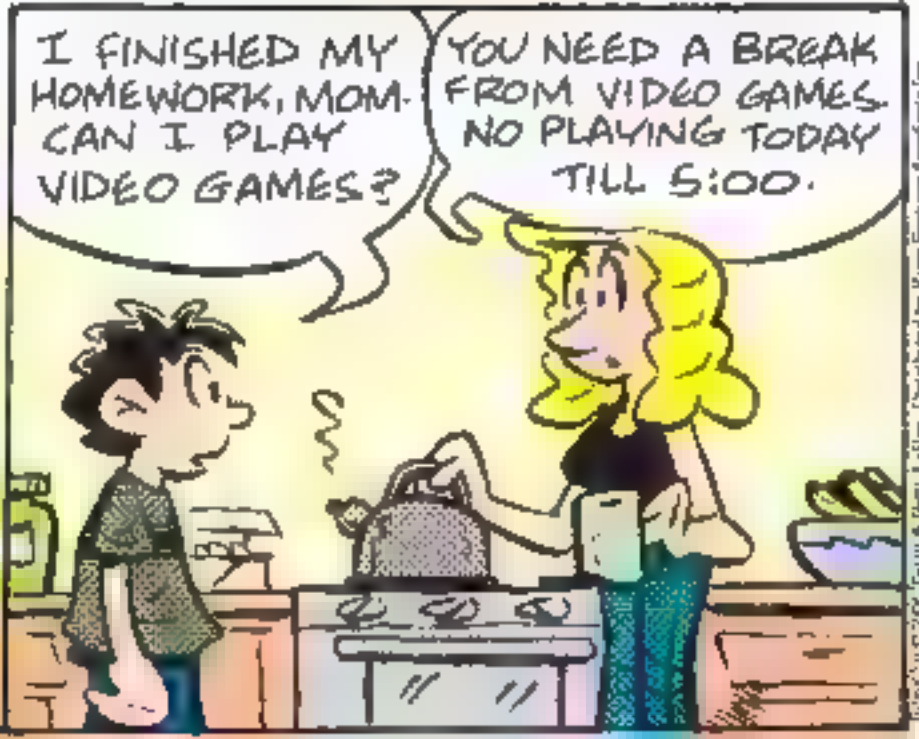

ANOTHER LAWN ORNAMENT?

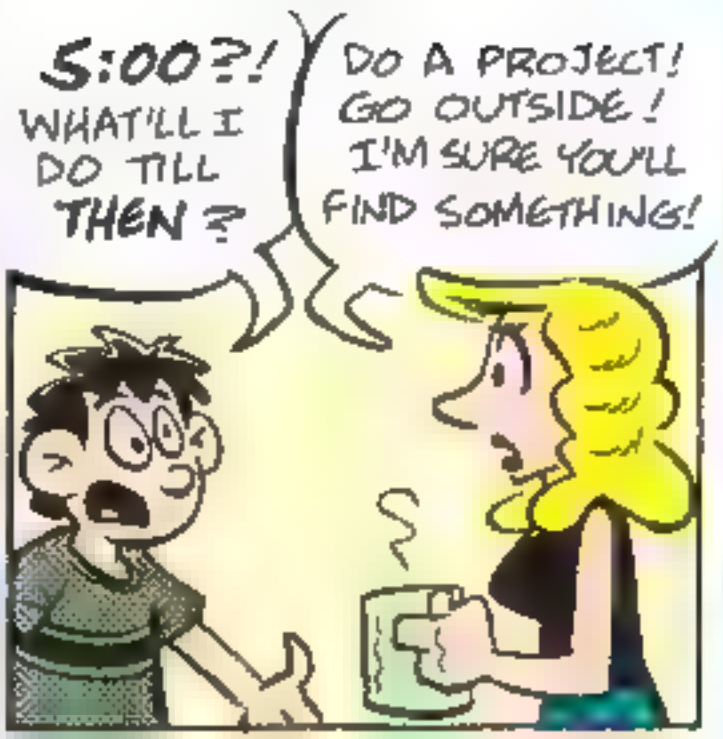

WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY, COLIN?
I FINALLY KILLED THE PROGENATOR AND ADVANCED TO LEVEL 3.
IT WAS SO COOL—I TRIPLED MY POWERS, PICKED UP A SPATZGUN, AND GOT MY OWN HAFFALOR TO RIDE.
4.24
I MEAN, BESIDES PLAY VIDEO GAMES.
OH. NUTHIN'.
SCRATCH SCRATCH!
TAYLOR BLAN

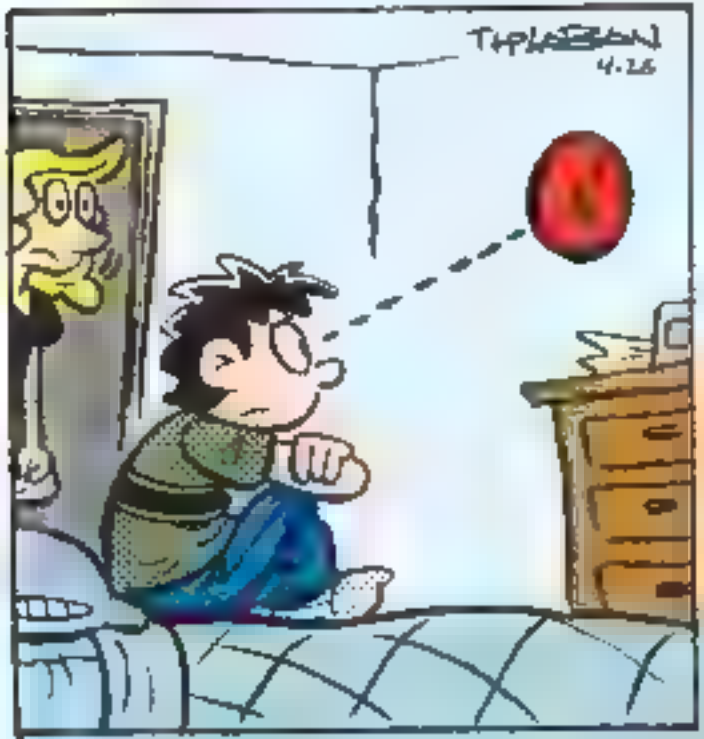
COLIN, YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING VIDEO GAMES LONG ENOUGH. I WANT YOU TO TURN IT OFF!
BLEEP! BOING!


DID YOU HEAR ME? IF YOU DON'T TURN IT OFF, I WILL!
BLOOP! FWEEP!

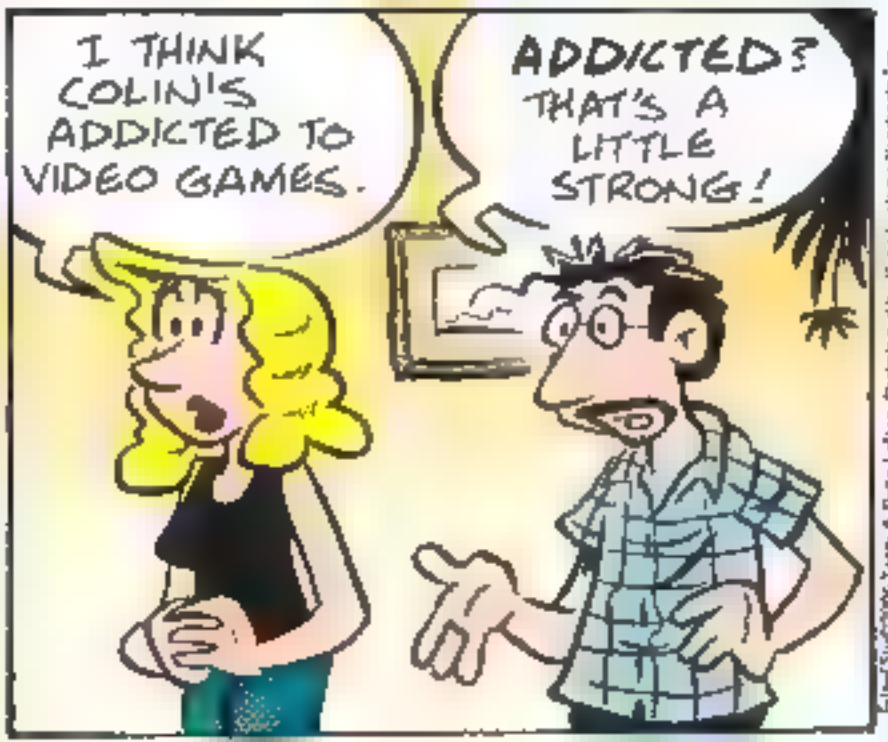

AAA AAA GH!
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE FADED IT OUT MORE SLOWLY...


I FINISHED MY HOMEWORK, MOM. CAN I PLAY VIDEO GAMES?
YOU NEED A BREAK FROM VIDEO GAMES. NO PLAYING TODAY TILL 5:00.


5:00?! WHAT'LL I DO TILL THEN?
DO A PROJECT! GO OUTSIDE! I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND SOMETHING!


THPLASSON
4.26

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW OBSESSED COLIN'S BECOME WITH VIDEO GAMES?
WELL, I KNOW HE LIKES THEM A LOT.
LIKES THEM? LEN, THEY'RE ALL HE THINKS, TALKS, AND PROBABLY DREAMS ABOUT!
C'MON, ABBY-- DON'T EXAGGERATE.
4-27
I'M NOT EXAGGERATING!
ZZZZ... OH NO! THE DARK LORD!... TAKE THAT!... ZZZZ...

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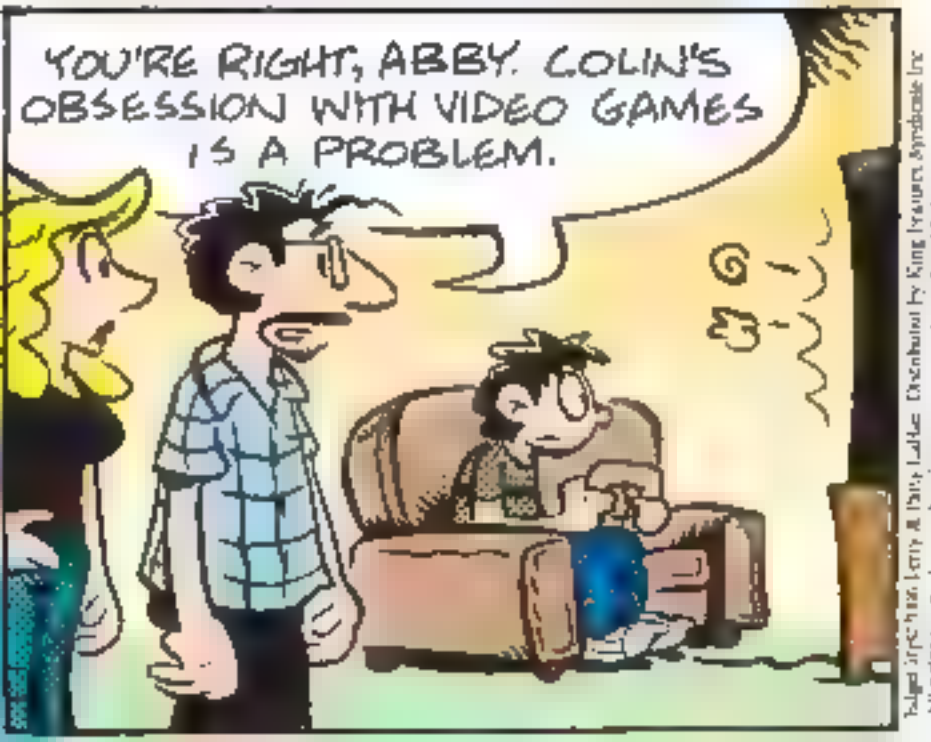
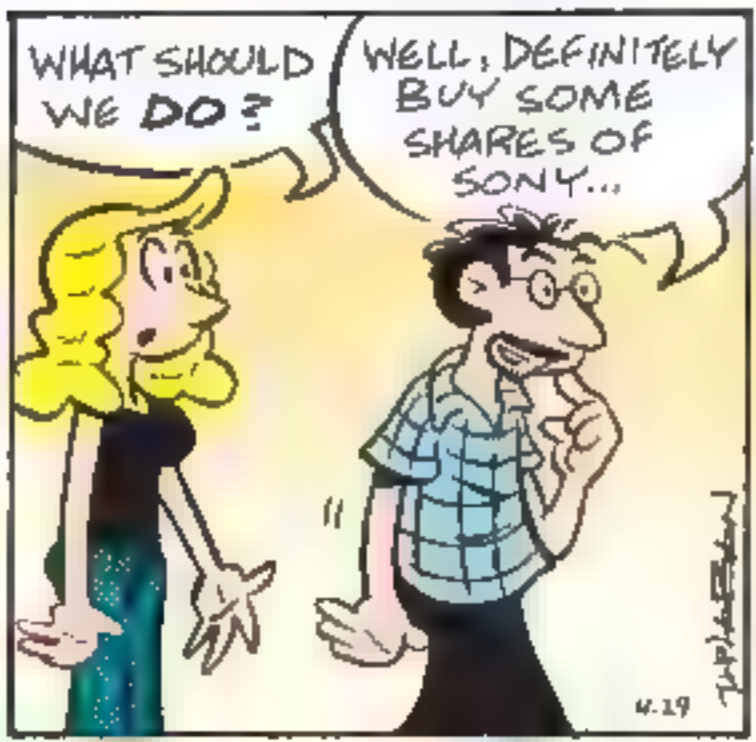
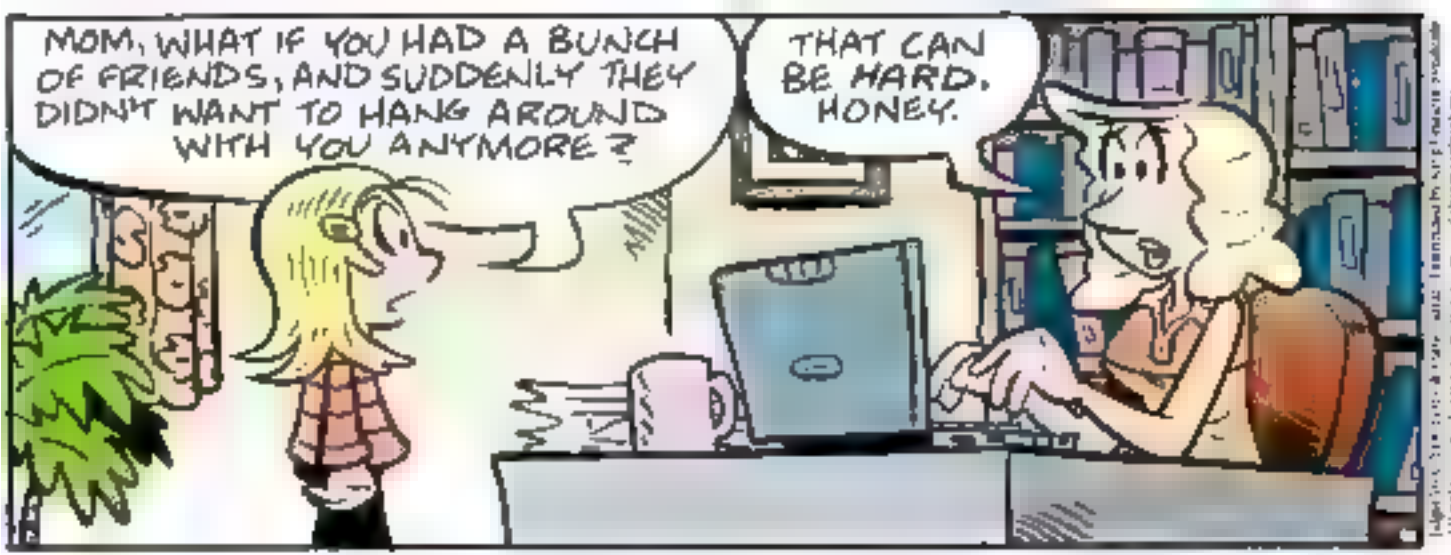
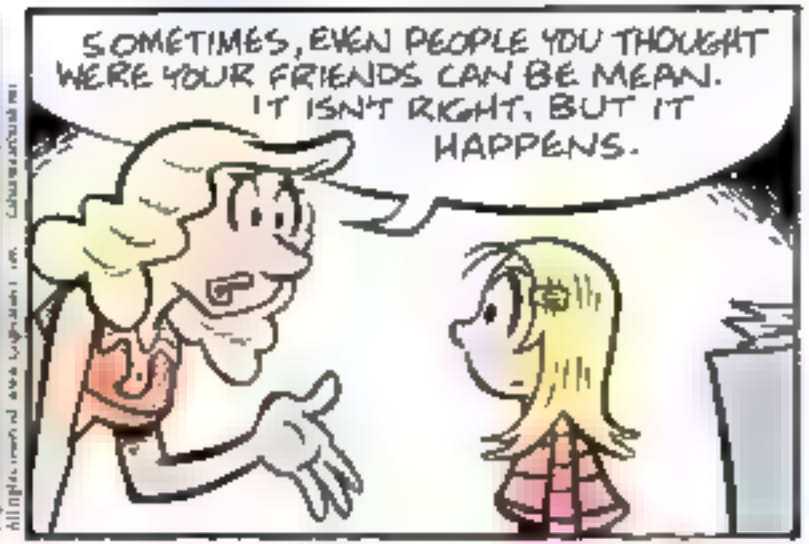

YOU'RE RIGHT, ABBY. COLIN'S OBSESSION WITH VIDEO GAMES IS A PROBLEM.

I DIDN'T GROW UP PLAYING VIDEO GAMES. I NEVER REALIZED HOW ADDICTIVE THEY ARE.

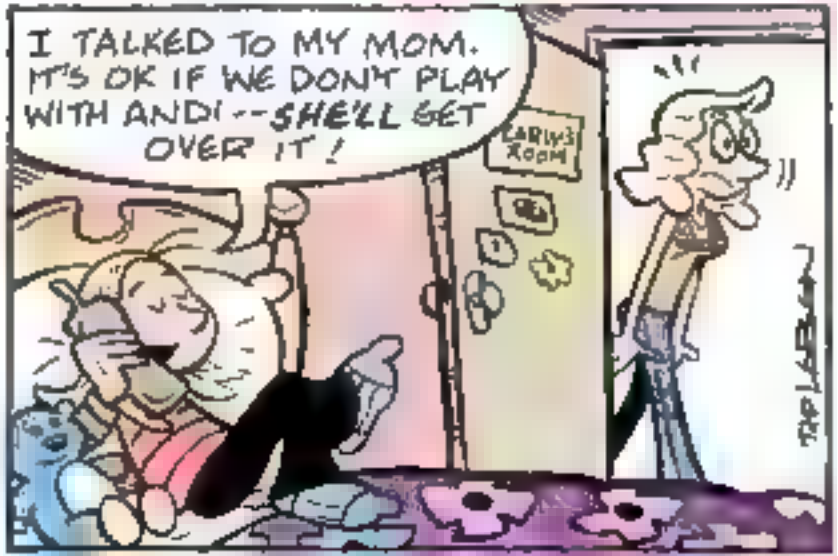

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WELL, DEFINITELY BUY SOME SHARES OF SONY...


MOM, WHAT IF YOU HAD A BUNCH OF FRIENDS, AND SUDDENLY THEY DIDN'T WANT TO HANG AROUND WITH YOU ANYMORE?
THAT CAN BE HARD, HONEY.


SOMETIMES, EVEN PEOPLE YOU THOUGHT WERE YOUR FRIENDS CAN BE MEAN. IT ISN'T RIGHT, BUT IT HAPPENS.

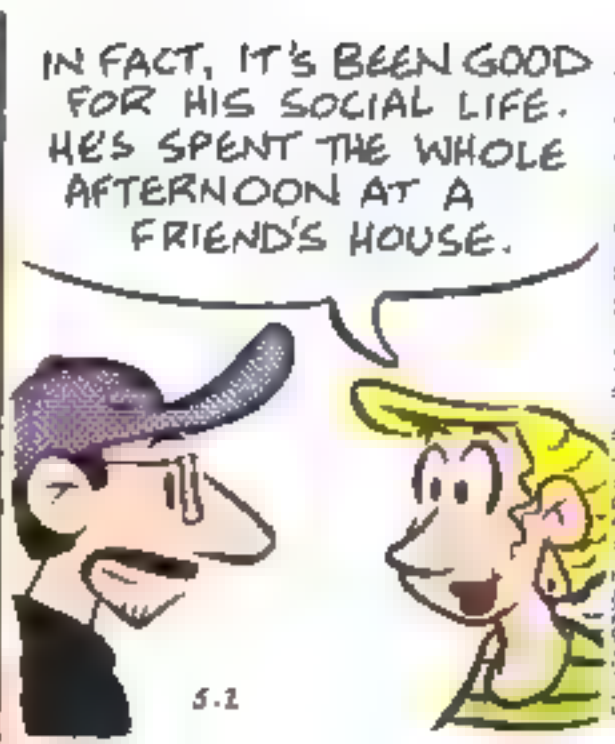
ALL YOU CAN DO IS LEAVE THEM ALONE AND HOPE THEY COME AROUND.

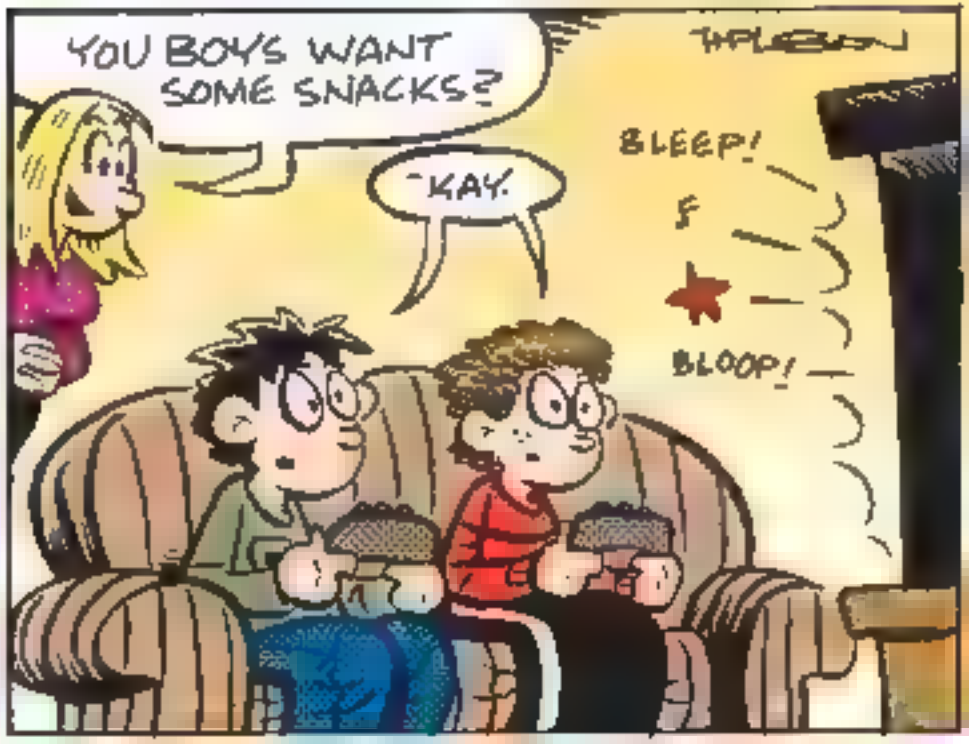
IT ISN'T FUN. BUT YOU NEED TO HAVE FAITH IN YOURSELF, AND BELIEVE THAT IN THE END IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
THANKS, MOM!
4-30


I TALKED TO MY MOM. IT'S OK IF WE DON'T PLAY WITH ANDI--SHE'LL GET OVER IT!
CARLY'S ROOM

I THINK COLIN IS SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME PLAYING VIDEO GAMES.
MAYBE WE SHOULD SET SOME LIMITS.
5.1
I THINK AN HOUR A DAY IS PLENTY.
THAT SEEMS REASONABLE.
AN HOUR A DAY?
NOOOO!
AT LEAST, IT SEEMED REASONABLE TO ME!

HOW'S COLIN DOING?
HE WAS UPSET WHEN WE LIMITED HIS VIDEO GAME PLAYING. BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN OVER IT.


IN FACT, IT'S BEEN GOOD FOR HIS SOCIAL LIFE. HE'S SPENT THE WHOLE AFTERNOON AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE.
5-2


YOU BOYS WANT SOME SNACKS?
'KAY.
BLEEP!
BLOOP!

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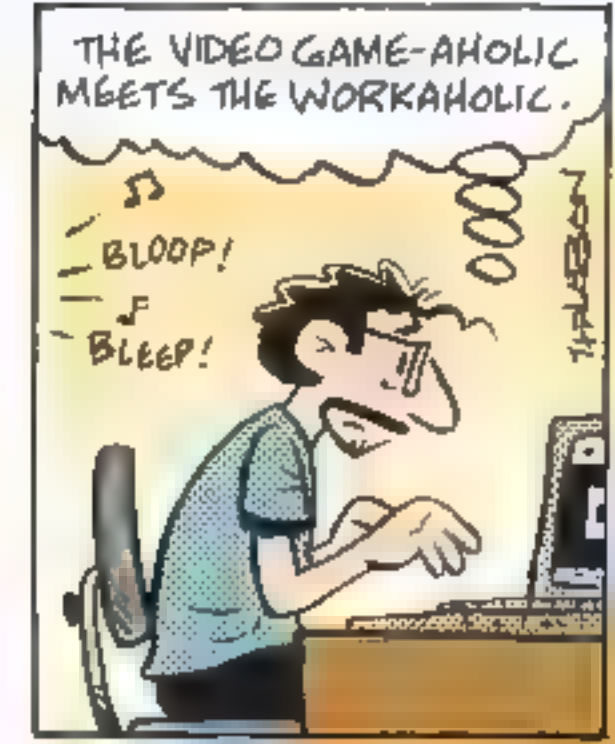

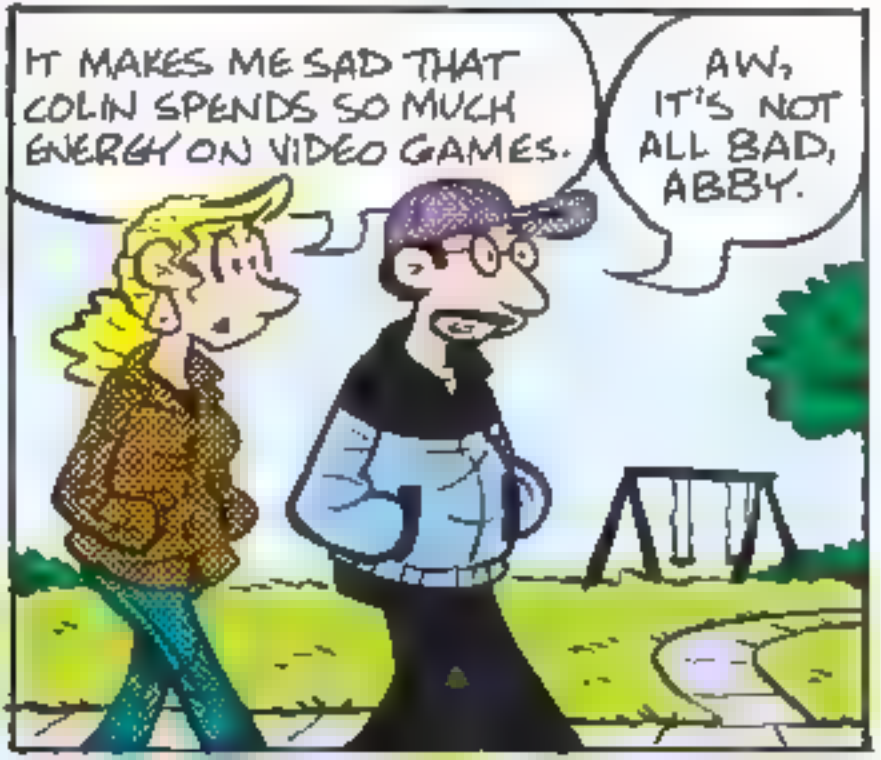


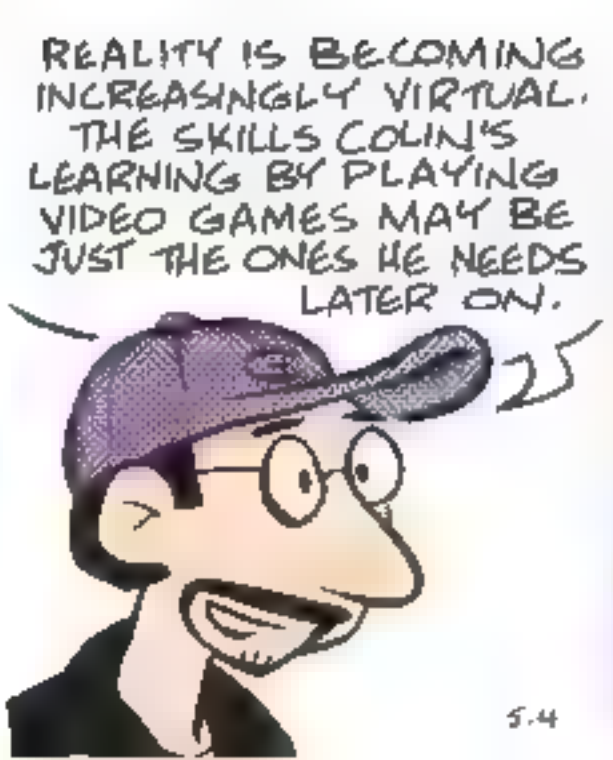


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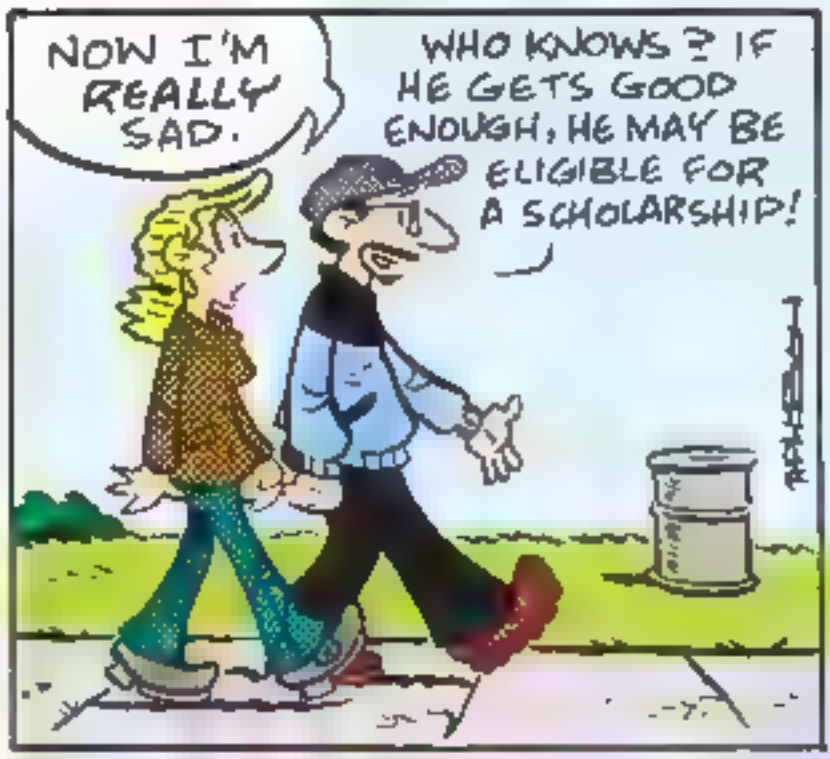
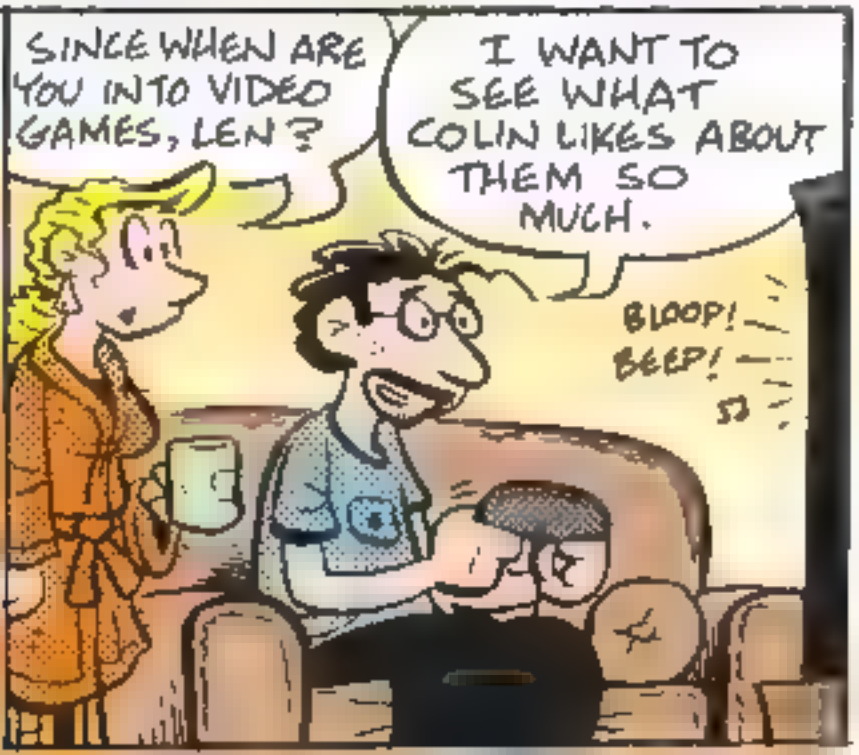
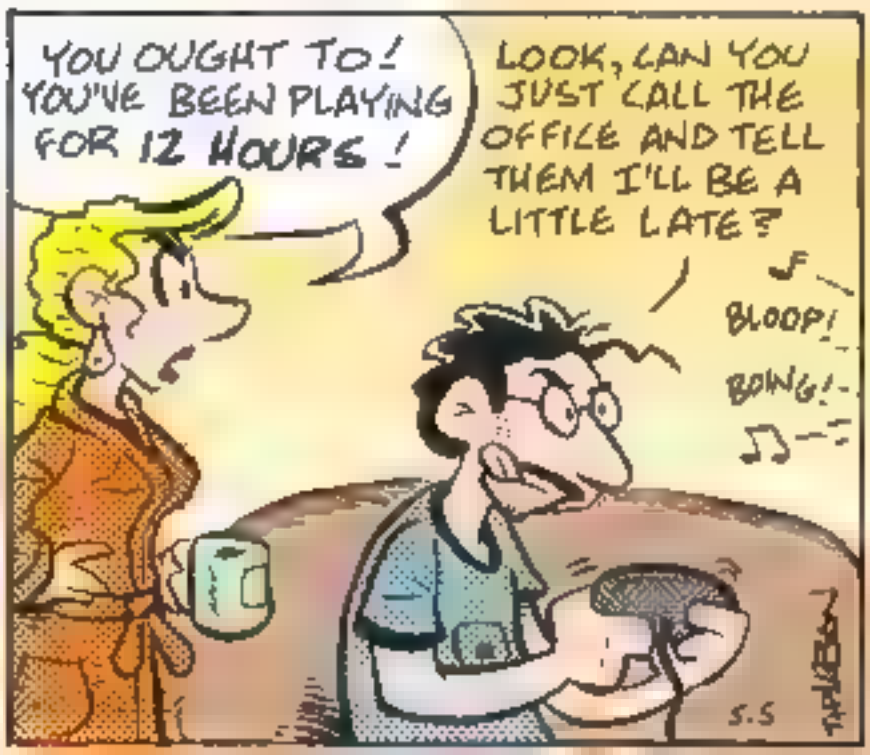


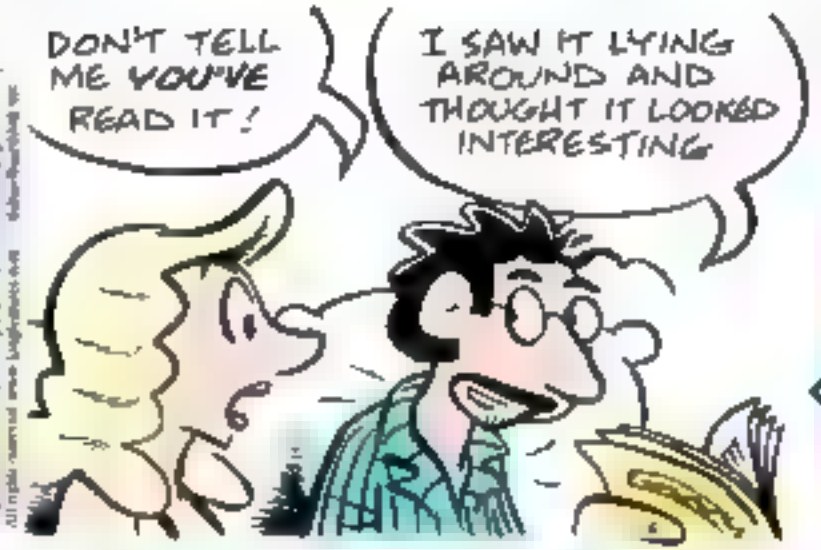

SINCE WHEN ARE YOU INTO VIDEO GAMES, LEN?
I WANT TO SEE WHAT COLIN LIKES ABOUT THEM SO MUCH.
BLOOP! BEEP!

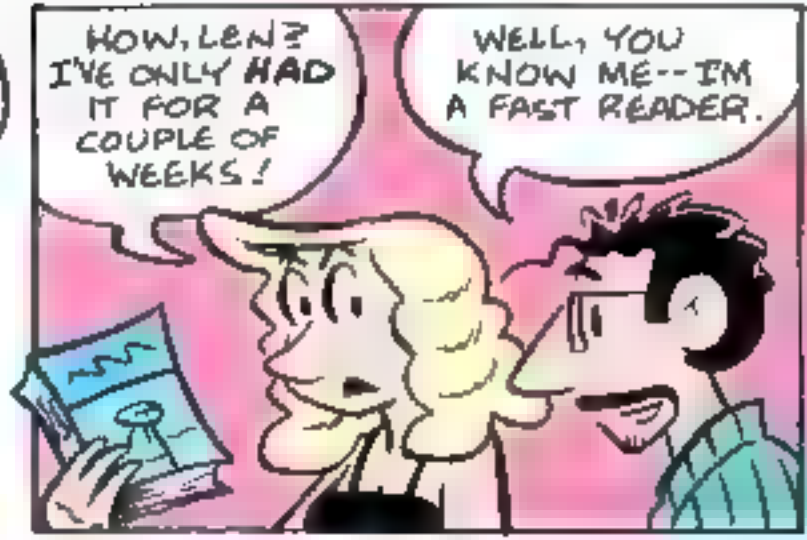
THEY'RE DEFINITELY ENGROSSING. I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND WHY PEOPLE GET ADDICTED TO THESE THINGS.

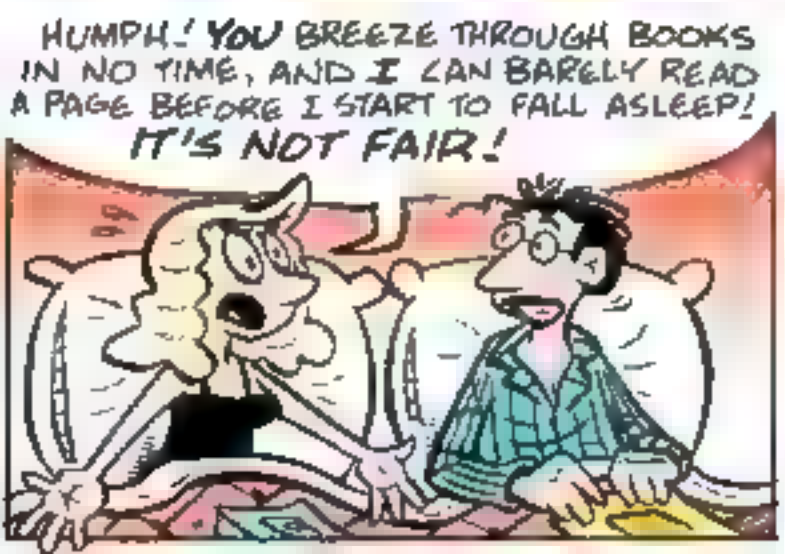

YOU OUGHT TO! YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING FOR 12 HOURS!
LOOK, CAN YOU JUST CALL THE OFFICE AND TELL THEM I'LL BE A LITTLE LATE?
BLOOP!
BONG!
5.5

YOU KNOW, LEN--I CAN SEE THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD THINGS ABOUT VIDEO GAMES.
5.6
BUT I DO THINK WE NEED TO SET LIMITS. AN HOUR A DAY PLAYING VIDEO GAMES IS PLENTY!
THAT MEANS TURN IT OFF!
JUST A SECOND!
HA! I ATE YOUR TERRABEATER!
BLEEP! BLOOP!

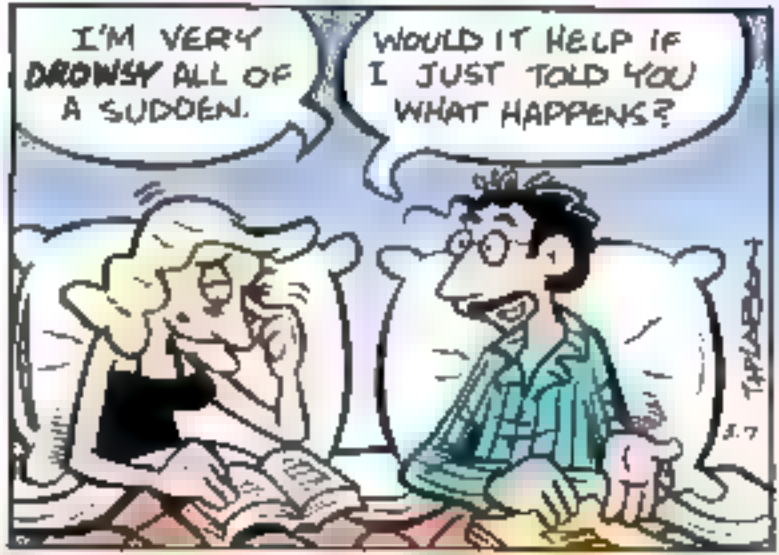
SIGH!: MY BOOK GROUP'S TOMORROW AND I STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED THE 1st CHAPTER OF THIS BOOK!
TOO BAD. IT'S PRETTY GOOD.

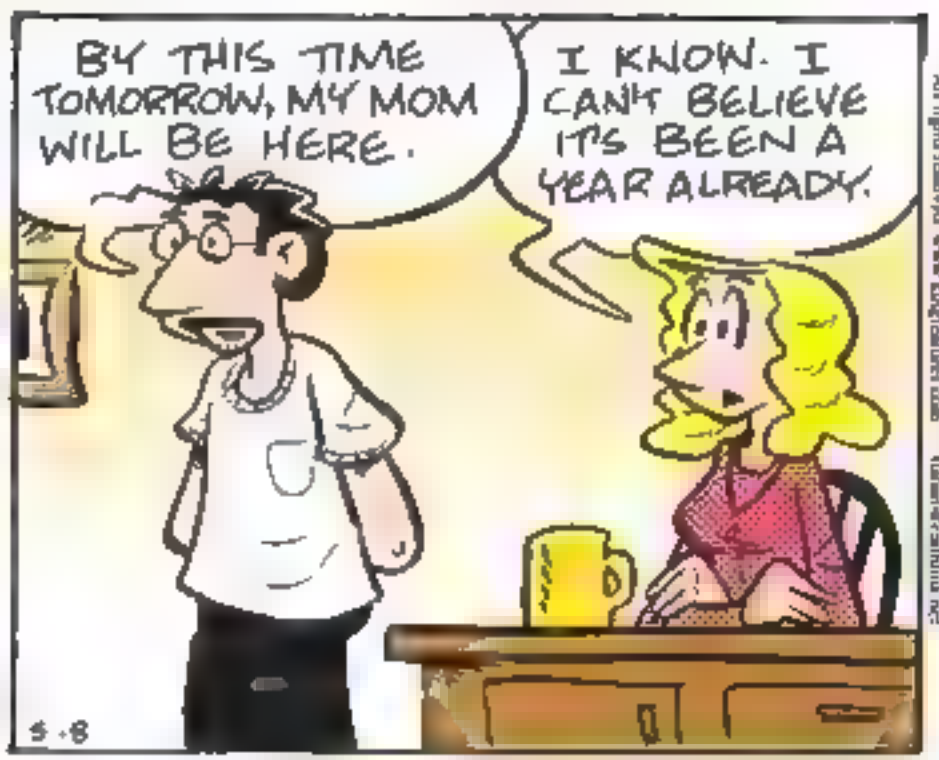

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE READ IT!
I SAW IT LYING AROUND AND THOUGHT IT LOOKED INTERESTING

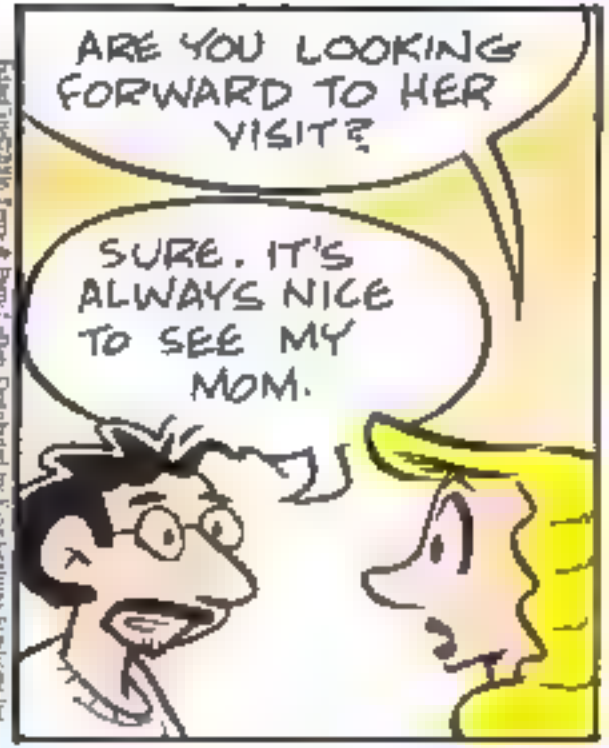

HOW, LEN? I'VE ONLY HAD IT FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS!
WELL, YOU KNOW ME--I'M A FAST READER.

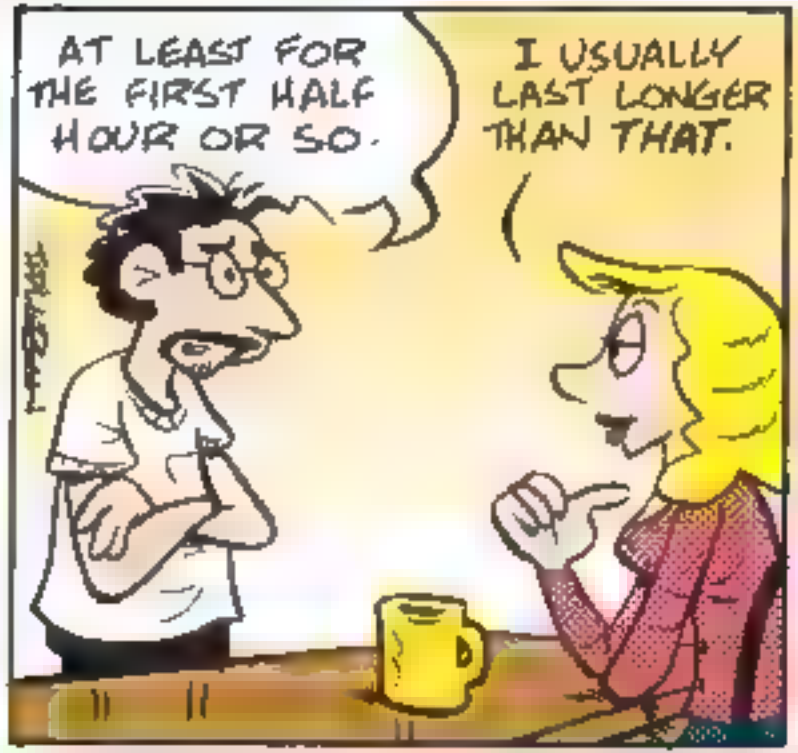

HUMPH! YOU BREEZE THROUGH BOOKS IN NO TIME, AND I CAN BARELY READ A PAGE BEFORE I START TO FALL ASLEEP! IT'S NOT FAIR!

FLIP! FLIP!

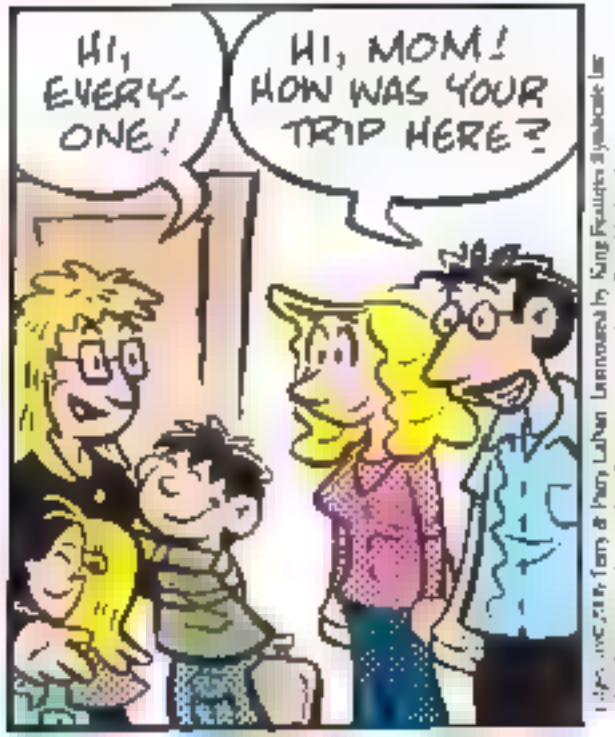

I'M VERY DROWSY ALL OF A SUDDEN.
WOULD IT HELP IF I JUST TOLD YOU WHAT HAPPENS?


BY THIS TIME TOMORROW, MY MOM WILL BE HERE.
I KNOW. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN A YEAR ALREADY.
S.8


ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO HER VISIT?
SURE. IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO SEE MY MOM.


AT LEAST FOR THE FIRST HALF HOUR OR SO.
I USUALLY LAST LONGER THAN THAT.

I HOPE WE HAVE A GOOD VISIT WITH YOUR MOM.
ME TOO.
SHE CAN BE VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT HER CAUSES.
YEAH-- AND I ADMIRE HER FOR THAT.
SHE'S MARCHED WITH FARM WORKERS...SAILED WITH GREENPEACE... PROTESTED EVERY WAR SINCE KOREA...
IT'S JUST THAT SOMETIMES SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO STOP.
REMEMBER THE TIME SHE BOYCOTTED OUR LAWN CHAIRS BECAUSE THEY WERE PLASTIC?


HI, EVERYONE!
HI, MOM! HOW WAS YOUR TRIP HERE?

OK, CONSIDERING I TOOK THE BUS. BUT I WON'T FLY TILL THE AIRLINE WORKERS GET A DECENT CONTRACT.
STILL FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT, HUH?

FIGHTS, HONEY! THERE'S A LOT TO FIX IN THIS WORLD!
OH! BEFORE I FORGET-- I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU ALL!

WHO WANTS TO SIGN SOME PETITIONS?
ARE THOSE LIKE GIFT CERTIFICATES?

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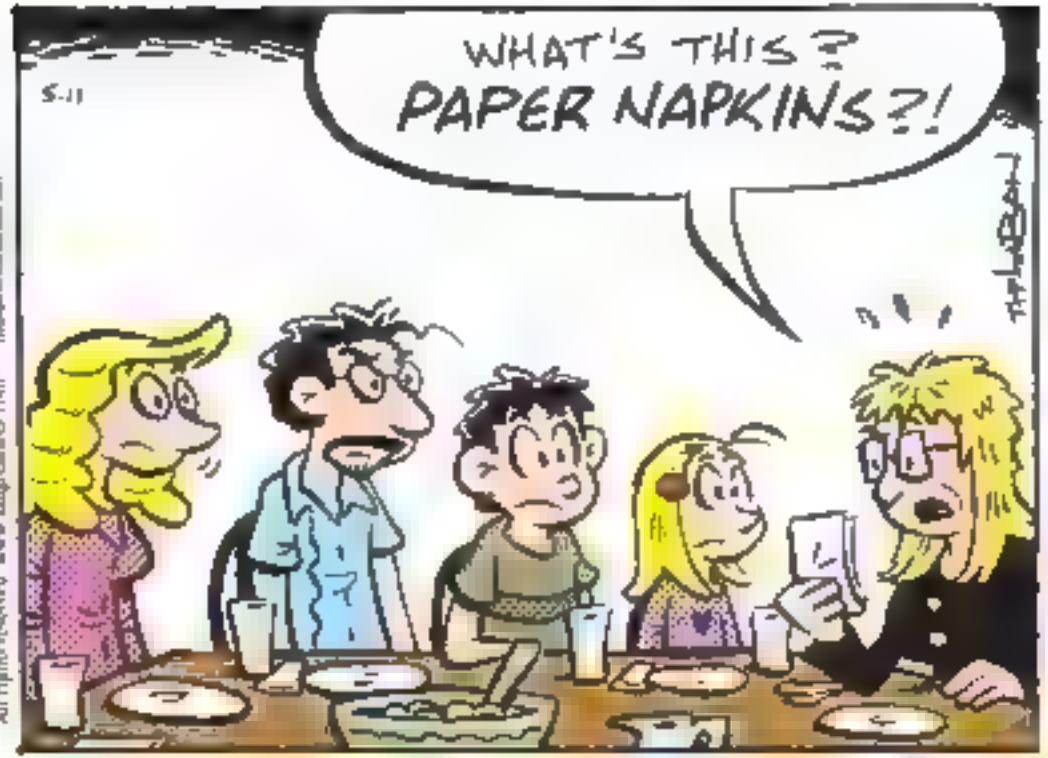
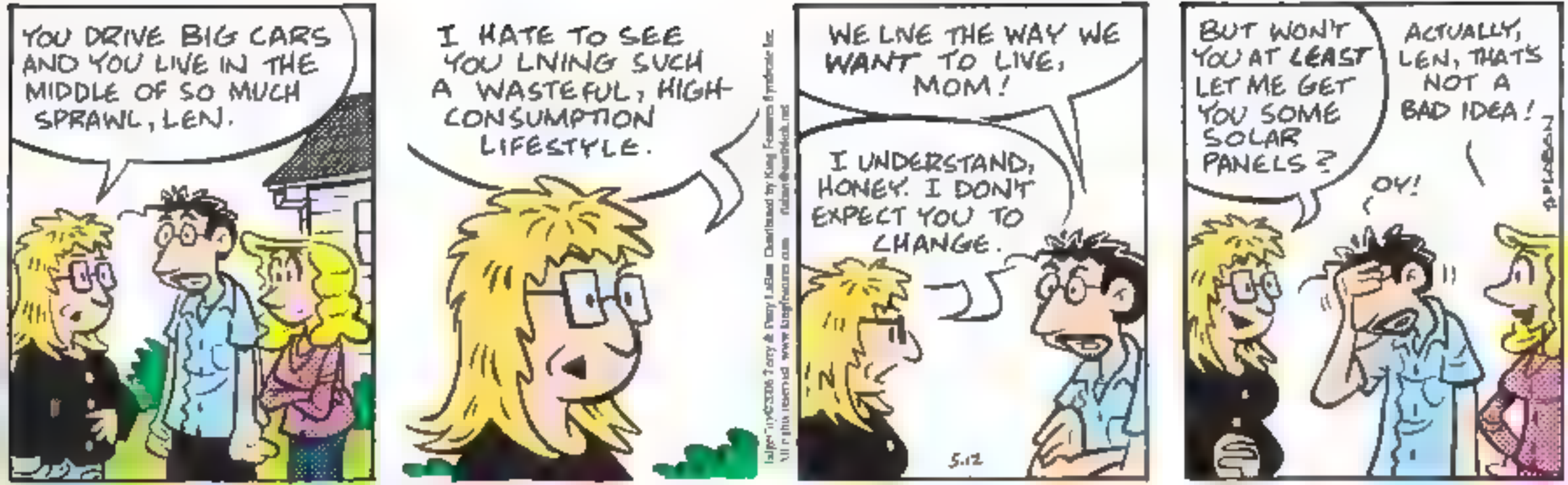
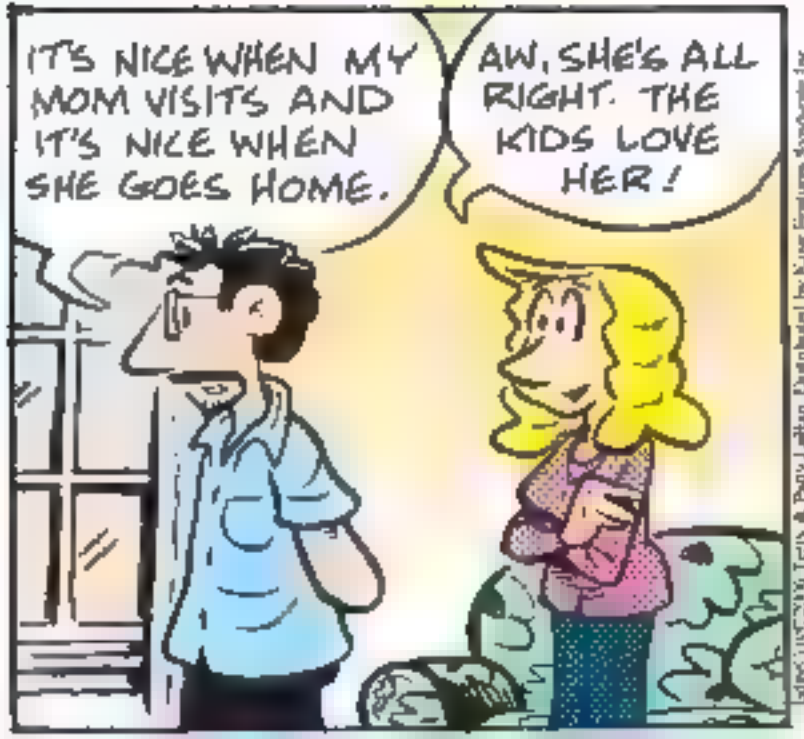



YOU DRIVE BIG CARS AND YOU LIVE IN THE MIDDLE OF SO MUCH SPRAWL, LEN.
I HATE TO SEE YOU LIVING SUCH A WASTEFUL, HIGH-CONSUMPTION LIFESTYLE.
WE LIVE THE WAY WE WANT TO LIVE, MOM!
I UNDERSTAND, HONEY. I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO CHANGE.
5.12
BUT WON'T YOU AT LEAST LET ME GET YOU SOME SOLAR PANELS?
ACTUALLY, LEN, THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA!
OY!

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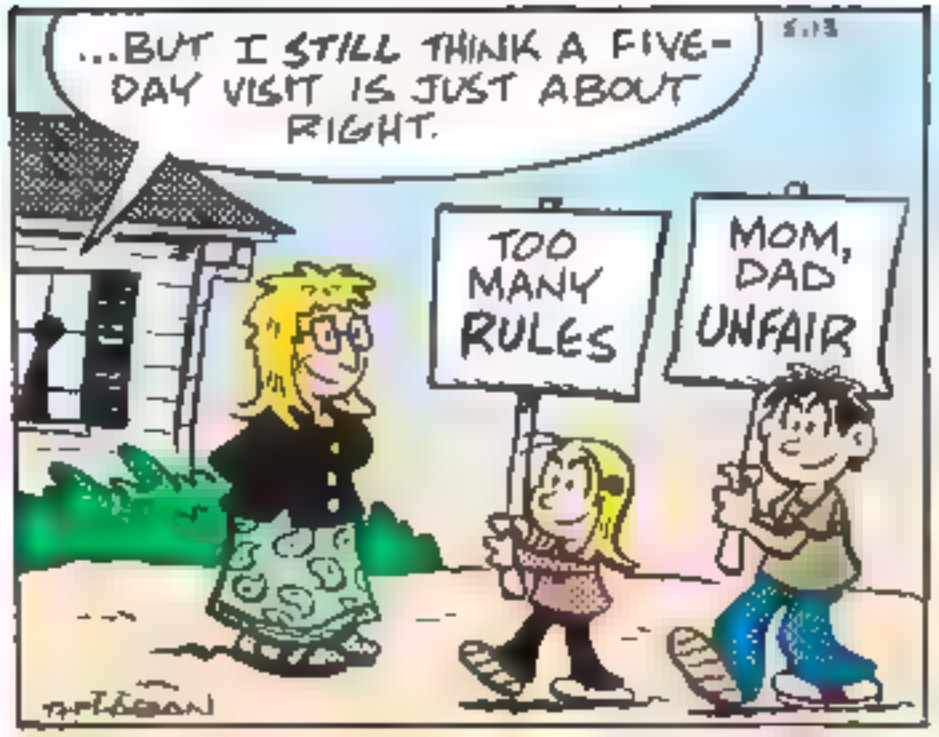
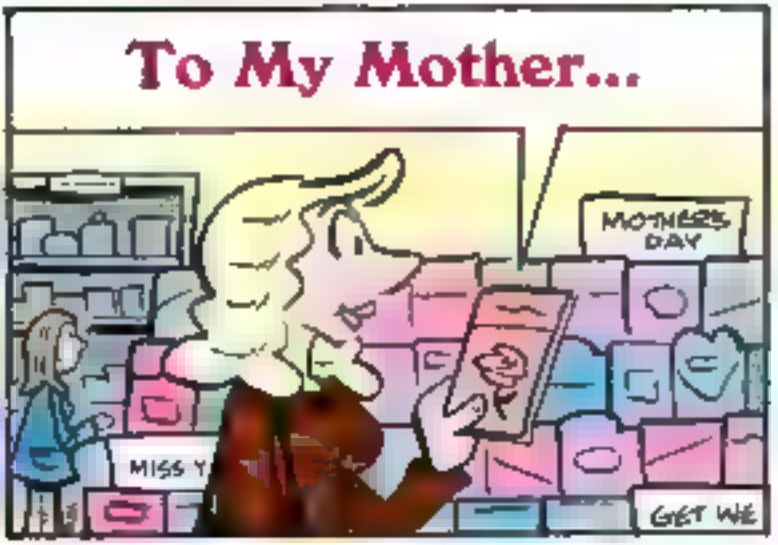
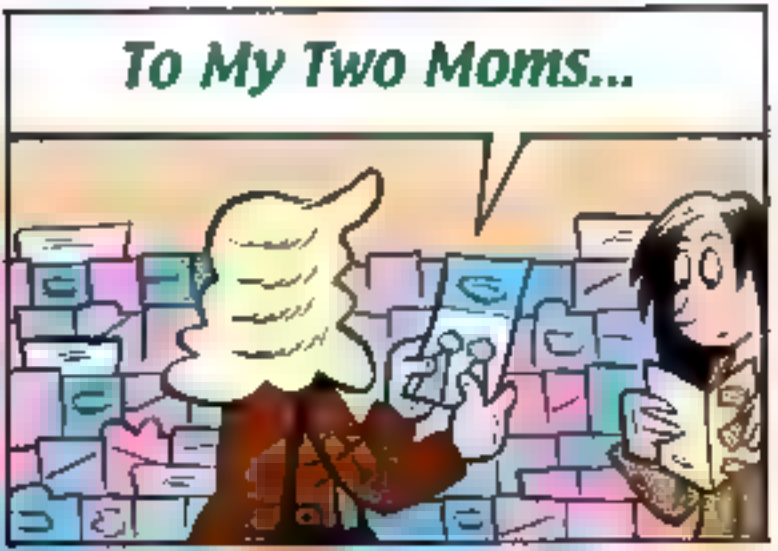


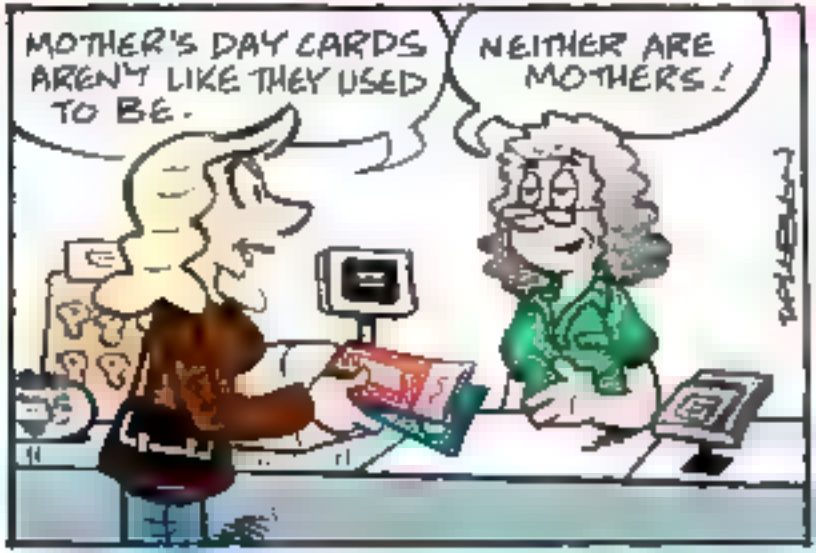

To My Mother...
MOTHERS DAY
MISS Y
GET WE

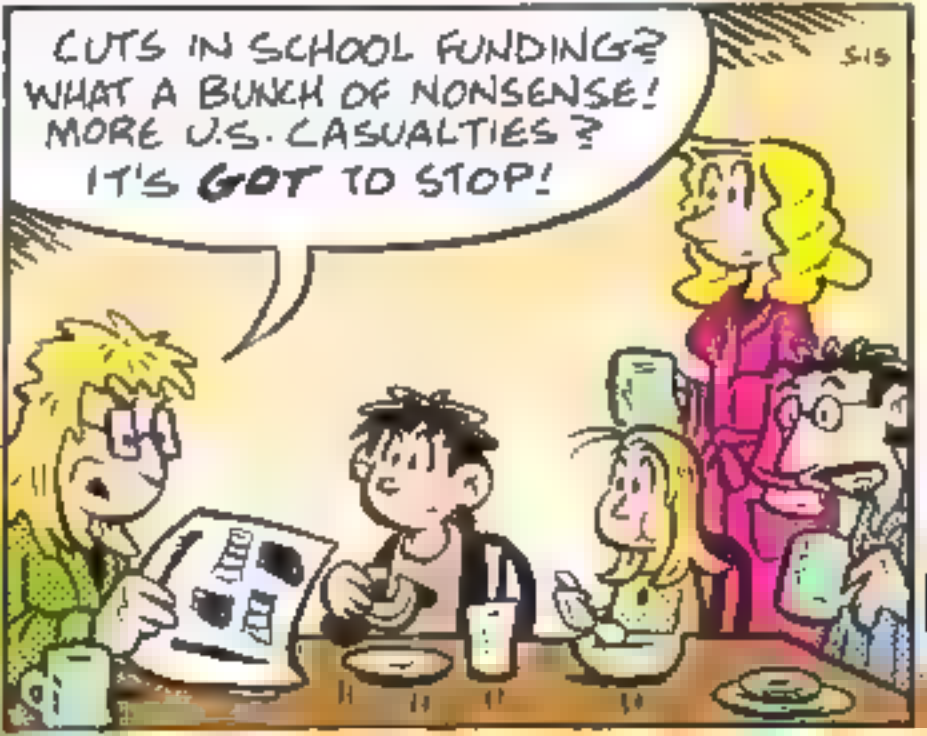
To My Grandmother

To My Stepmother...


To My Two Moms...

To My Babymama...
5-14


MOTHER'S DAY CARDS AREN'T LIKE THEY USED TO BE.
NEITHER ARE MOTHERS!



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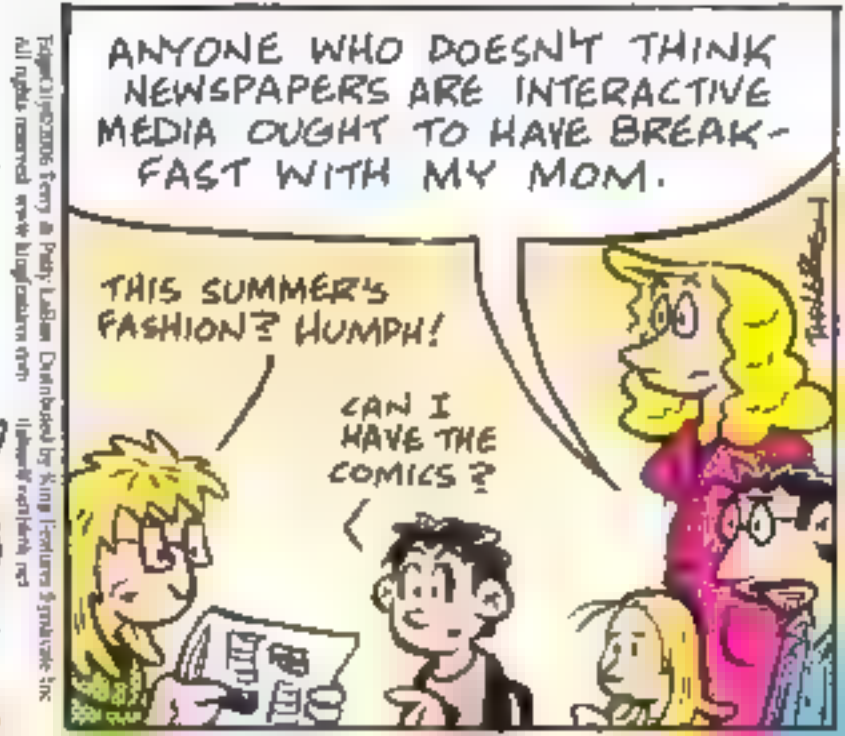
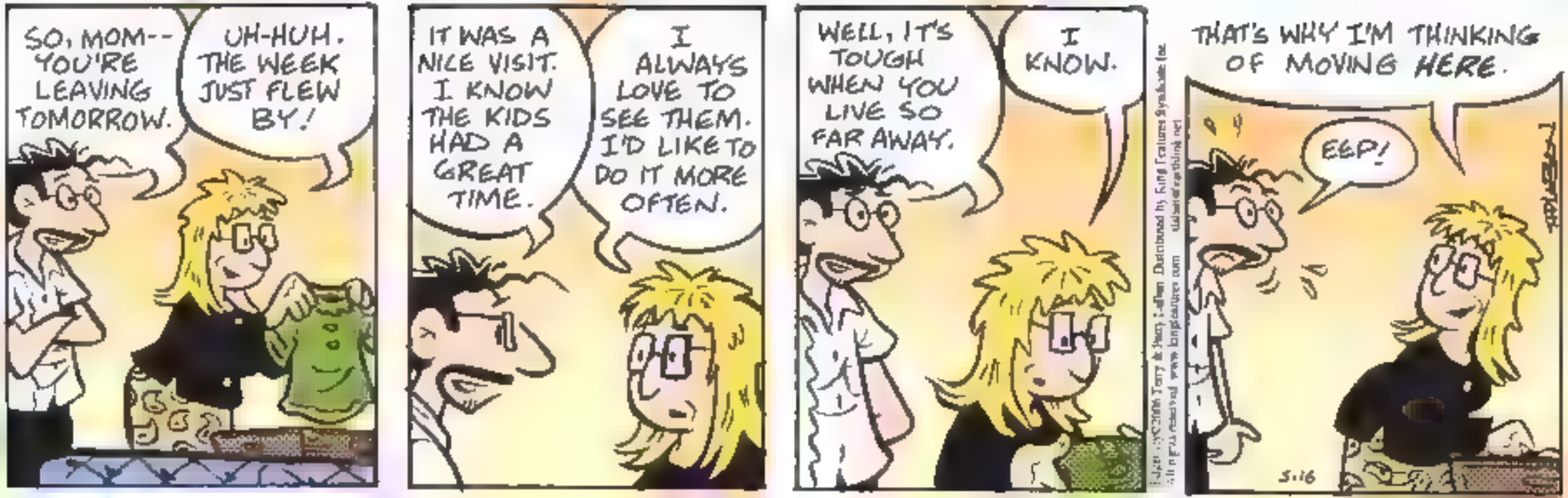
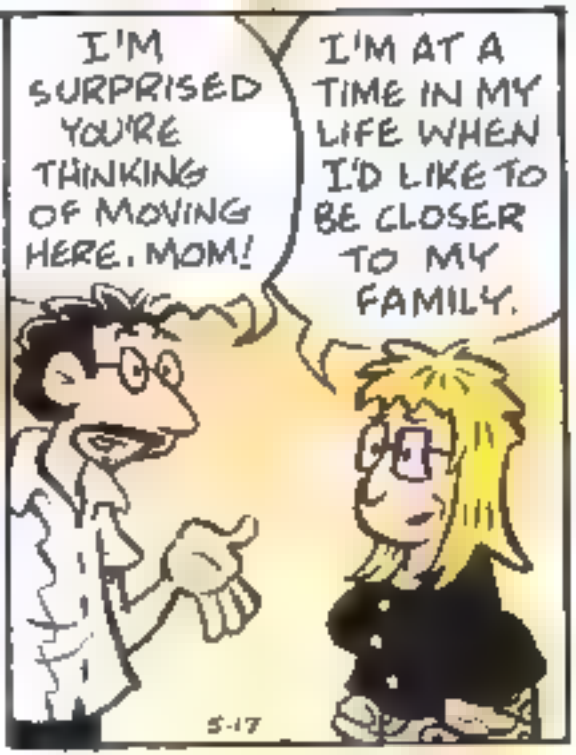
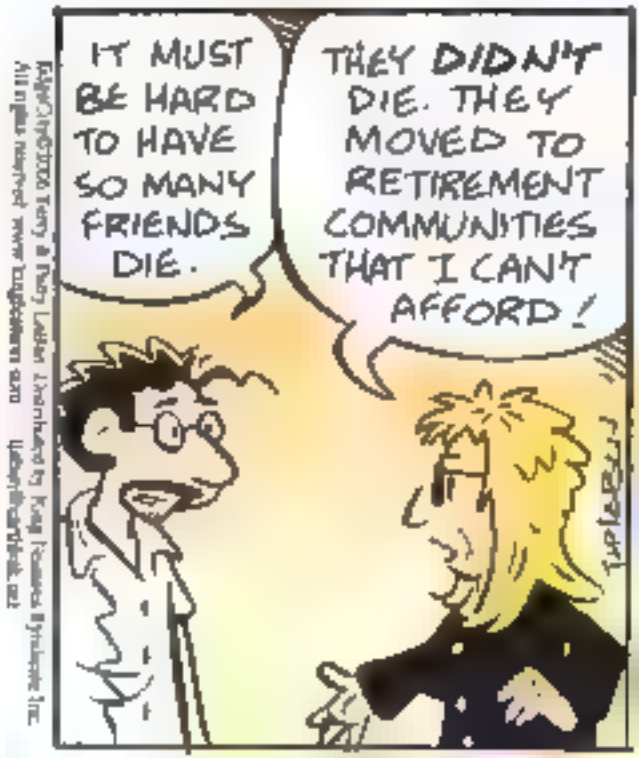


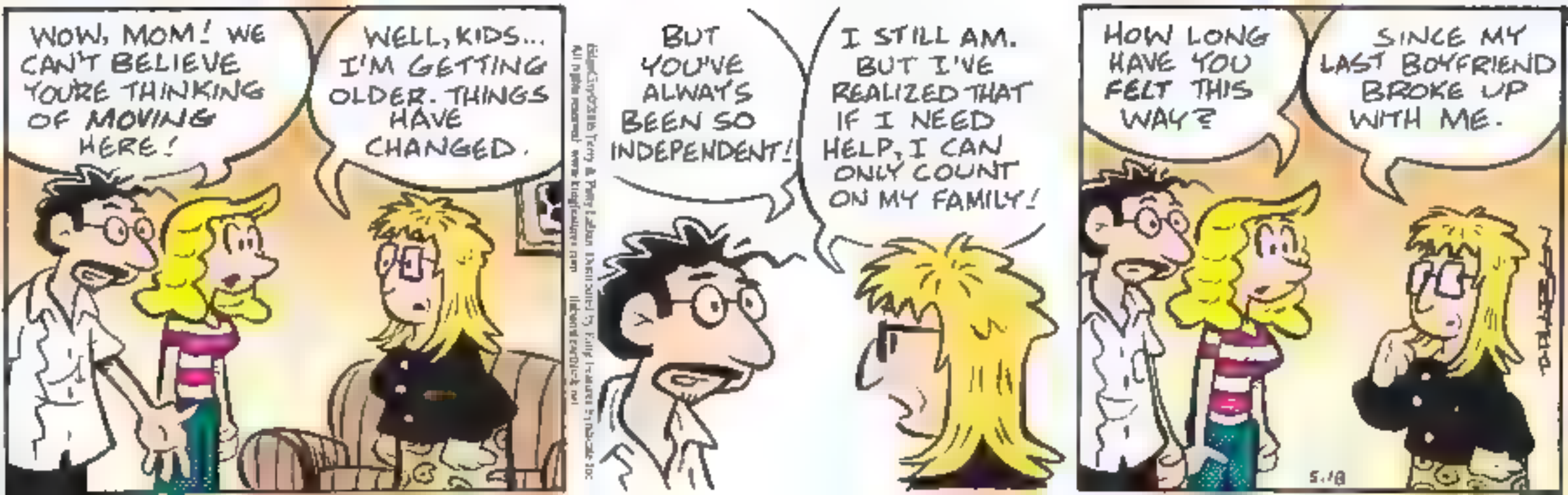

SO, MOM-- YOU'RE LEAVING TOMORROW.
UH-HUH. THE WEEK JUST FLEW BY!
IT WAS A NICE VISIT. I KNOW THE KIDS HAD A GREAT TIME.
I ALWAYS LOVE TO SEE THEM. I'D LIKE TO DO IT MORE OFTEN.
WELL, IT'S TOUGH WHEN YOU LIVE SO FAR AWAY.
I KNOW.
THAT'S WHY I'M THINKING OF MOVING HERE.
EEP!
5.16

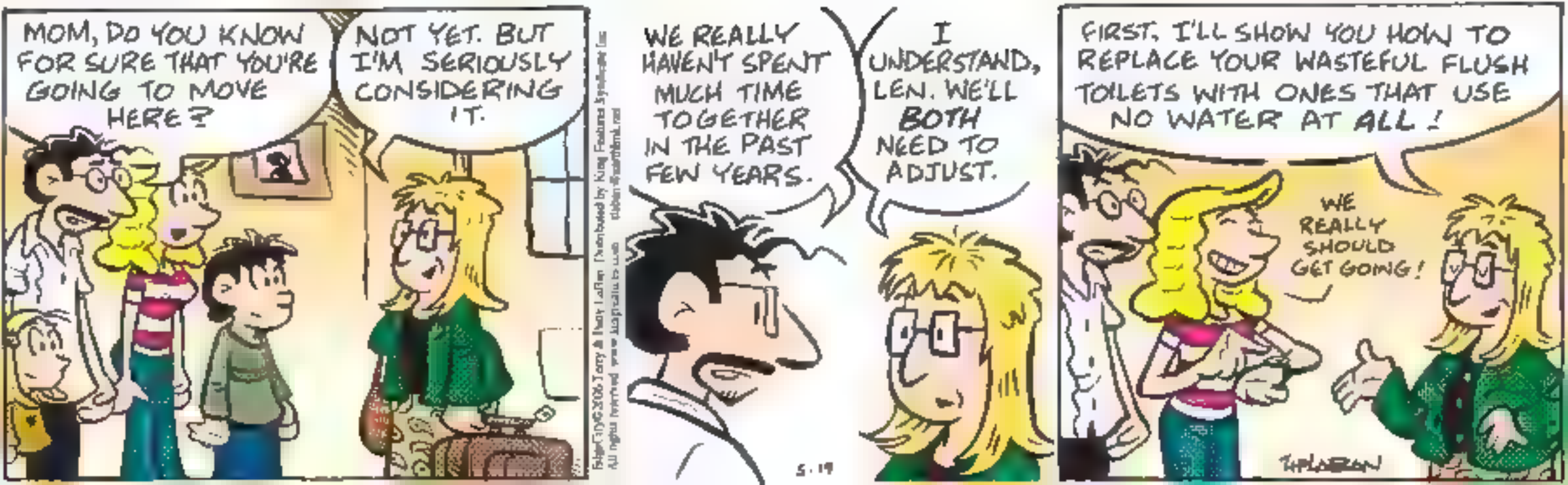

I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE THINKING OF MOVING HERE, MOM!
I'M AT A TIME IN MY LIFE WHEN I'D LIKE TO BE CLOSER TO MY FAMILY.
5-17

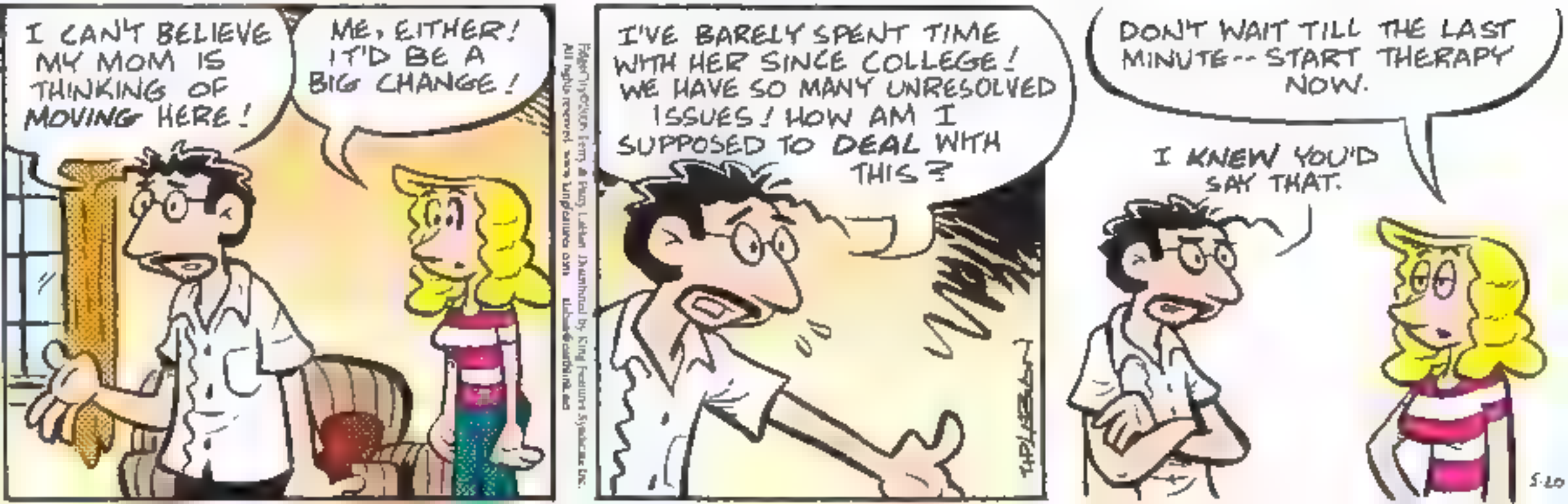
BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL YOUR FRIENDS?
SADLY, A LOT OF THEM AREN'T AROUND ANYMORE.

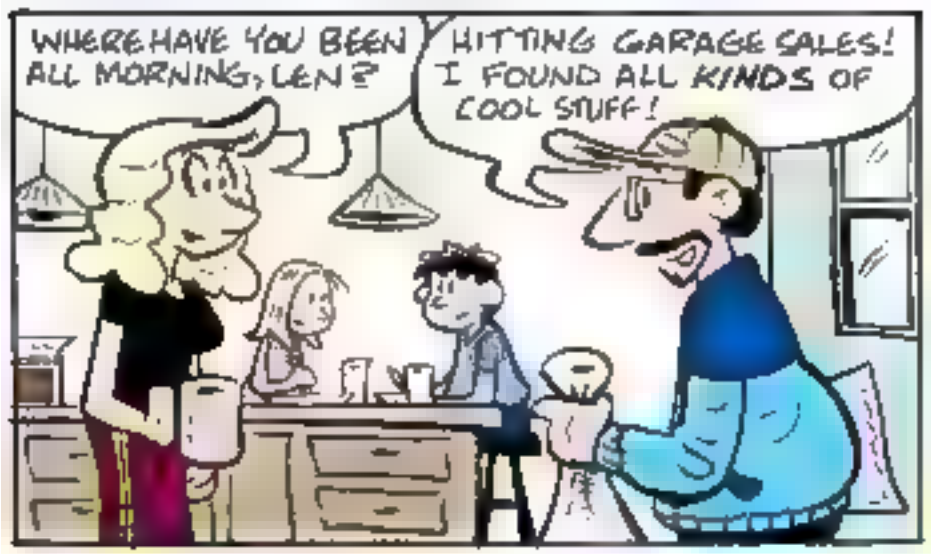
I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
IT'S OK. MOST HAVE GONE TO A BETTER PLACE.

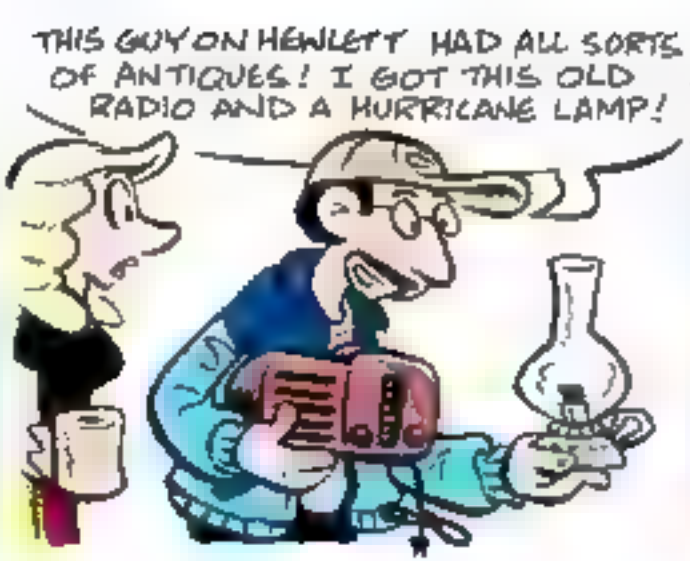

IT MUST BE HARD TO HAVE SO MANY FRIENDS DIE.
THEY DIDN'T DIE. THEY MOVED TO RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES THAT I CAN'T AFFORD!

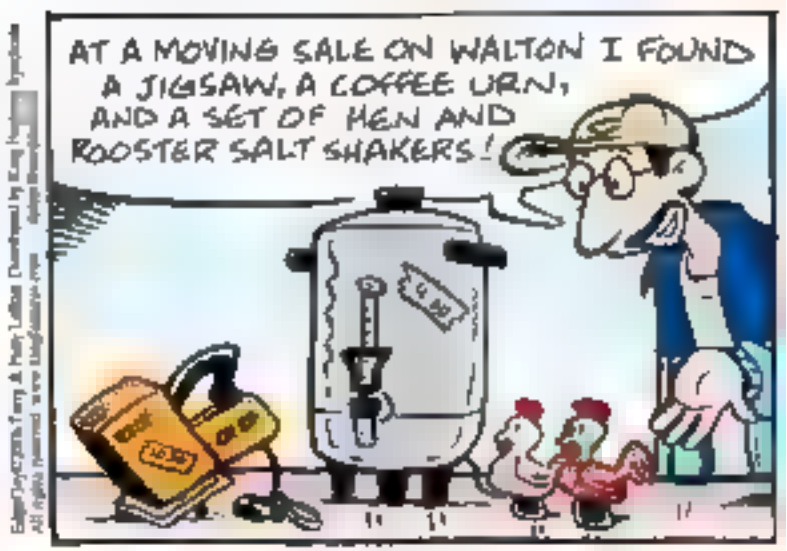

WOW, MOM! WE CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THINKING OF MOVING HERE!
WELL, KIDS... I'M GETTING OLDER. THINGS HAVE CHANGED.
BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO INDEPENDENT!
I STILL AM. BUT I'VE REALIZED THAT IF I NEED HELP, I CAN ONLY COUNT ON MY FAMILY!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU FELT THIS WAY?
SINCE MY LAST BOYFRIEND BROKE UP WITH ME.
5.18


MOM, DO YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO MOVE HERE?
NOT YET. BUT I'M SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING IT.
WE REALLY HAVEN'T SPENT MUCH TIME TOGETHER IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.
I UNDERSTAND, LEN. WE'LL BOTH NEED TO ADJUST.
FIRST, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO REPLACE YOUR WASTEFUL FLUSH TOILETS WITH ONES THAT USE NO WATER AT ALL!
WE REALLY SHOULD GET GOING!


I CAN'T BELIEVE MY MOM IS THINKING OF MOVING HERE!
ME, EITHER! IT'D BE A BIG CHANGE!
I'VE BARELY SPENT TIME WITH HER SINCE COLLEGE! WE HAVE SO MANY UNRESOLVED ISSUES! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DEAL WITH THIS?
DON'T WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE -- START THERAPY NOW.
I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT.
5-20


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL MORNING, LEN?
HITTING GARAGE SALES! I FOUND ALL KINDS OF COOL STUFF!


THIS GUY ON HENLETT HAD ALL SORTS OF ANTIQUES! I GOT THIS OLD RADIO AND A HURRICANE LAMP!

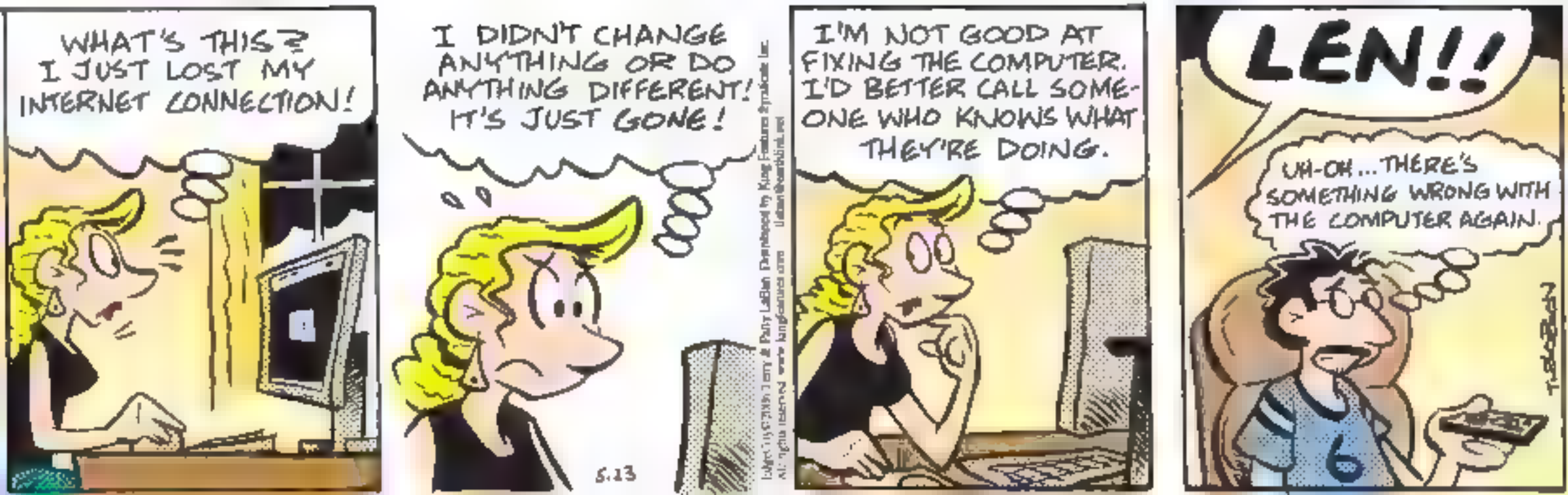

AT A MOVING SALE ON WALTON I FOUND A JIGSAW, A COFFEE URN, AND A SET OF HEN AND ROOSTER SALT SHAKERS!

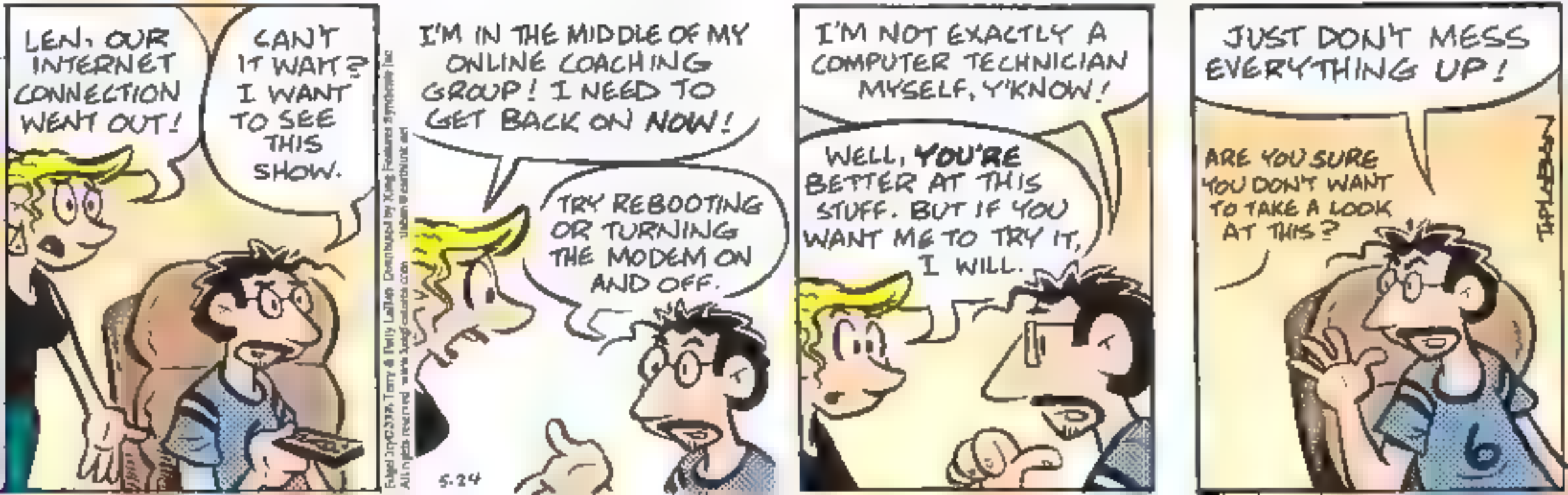
AND, BEST OF ALL, SOMEONE IN ALBANY ACRES WAS SELLING THEIR RECORD COLLECTION. I FOUND THINGS I'VE WANTED FOR YEARS!

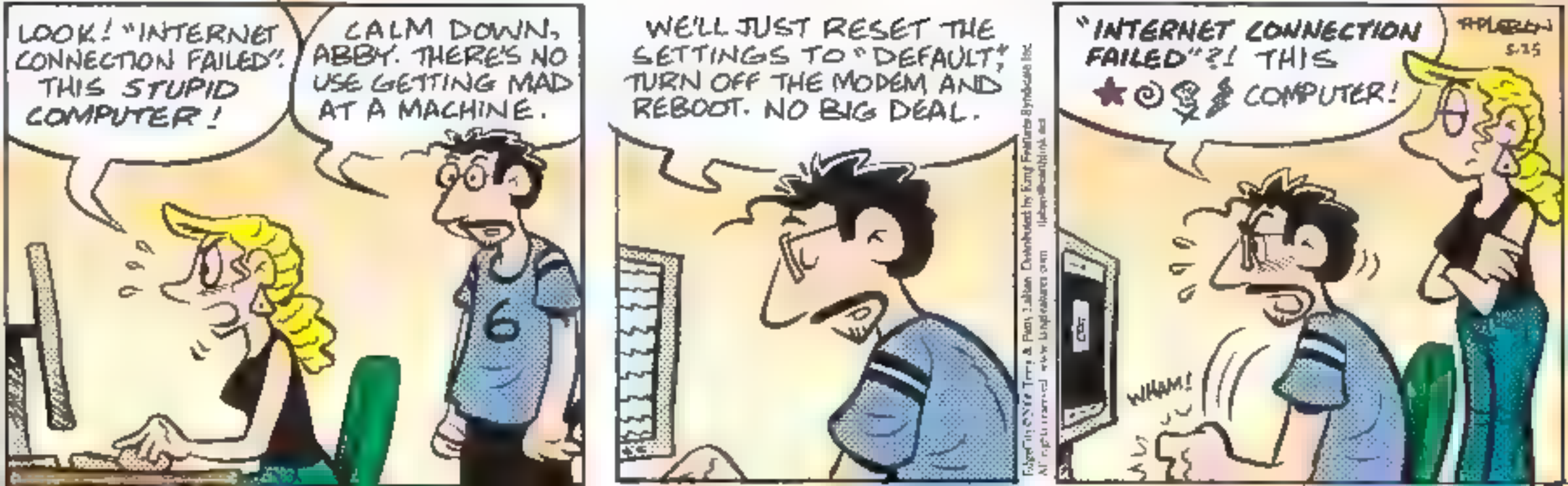
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HAPPY. LOOK, WE NEED TO RUN UP TO THE MALL LATER. THE KIDS NEED SOME NEW CLOTHES.
THE MALL? DO I HAVE TO GO, TOO?

YOU KNOW I HATE SHOPPING!

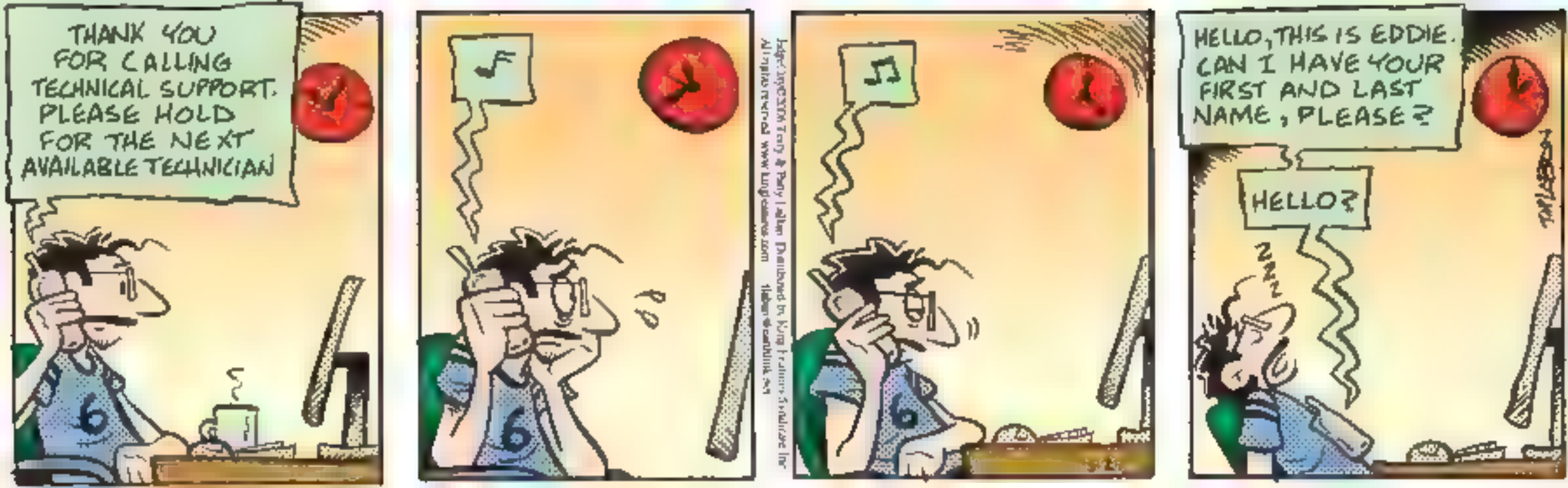
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, ABBY?
JUST CHECKING MY EMAIL BEFORE MY ONLINE COACHING GROUP STARTS.
MY SISTER SAYS SHE WAS ON A LOCAL RADIO SHOW. WE CAN DOWNLOAD IT AS A PODCAST.
5.22
WHAT DID PEOPLE DO BEFORE THE INTERNET?
YOU MEAN WAY BACK IN 1998?

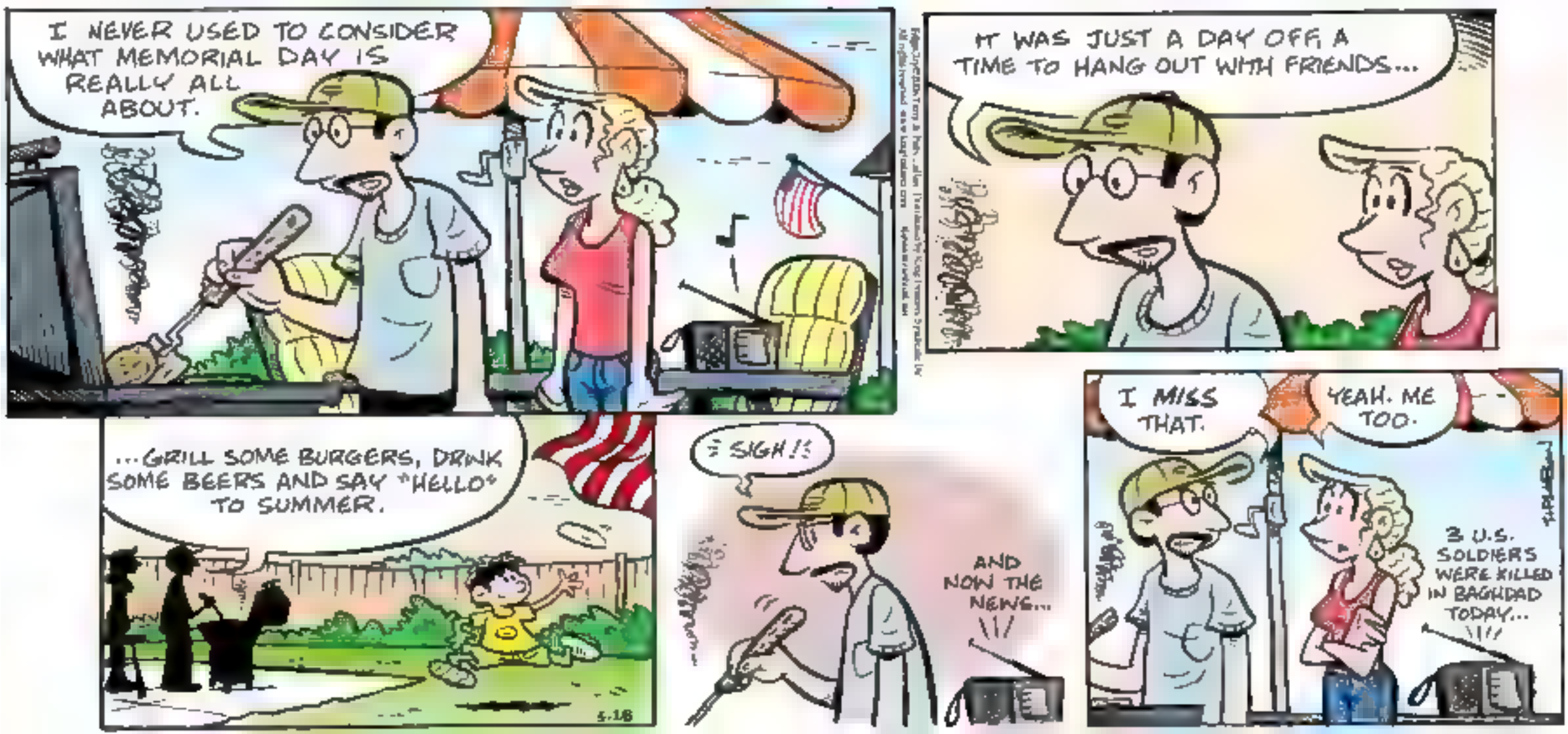

WHAT'S THIS? I JUST LOST MY INTERNET CONNECTION!
I DIDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING OR DO ANYTHING DIFFERENT! IT'S JUST GONE!
5.13
I'M NOT GOOD AT FIXING THE COMPUTER. I'D BETTER CALL SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DOING.
LEN!!
UH-OH... THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE COMPUTER AGAIN.

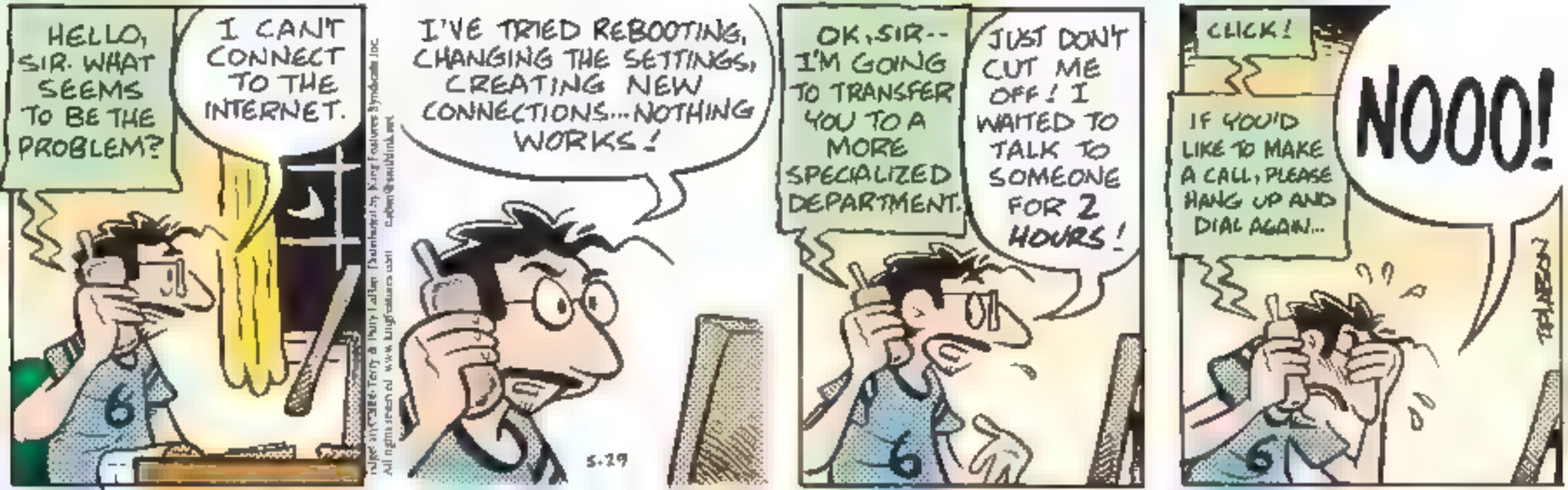

LEN, OUR INTERNET CONNECTION WENT OUT!
CAN'T IT WAIT? I WANT TO SEE THIS SHOW.
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF MY ONLINE COACHING GROUP! I NEED TO GET BACK ON NOW!
TRY REBOOTING OR TURNING THE MODEM ON AND OFF.
5-24
I'M NOT EXACTLY A COMPUTER TECHNICIAN MYSELF, Y'KNOW!
WELL, YOU'RE BETTER AT THIS STUFF. BUT IF YOU WANT ME TO TRY IT, I WILL.
JUST DON'T MESS EVERYTHING UP!
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS?
TIPLADAN

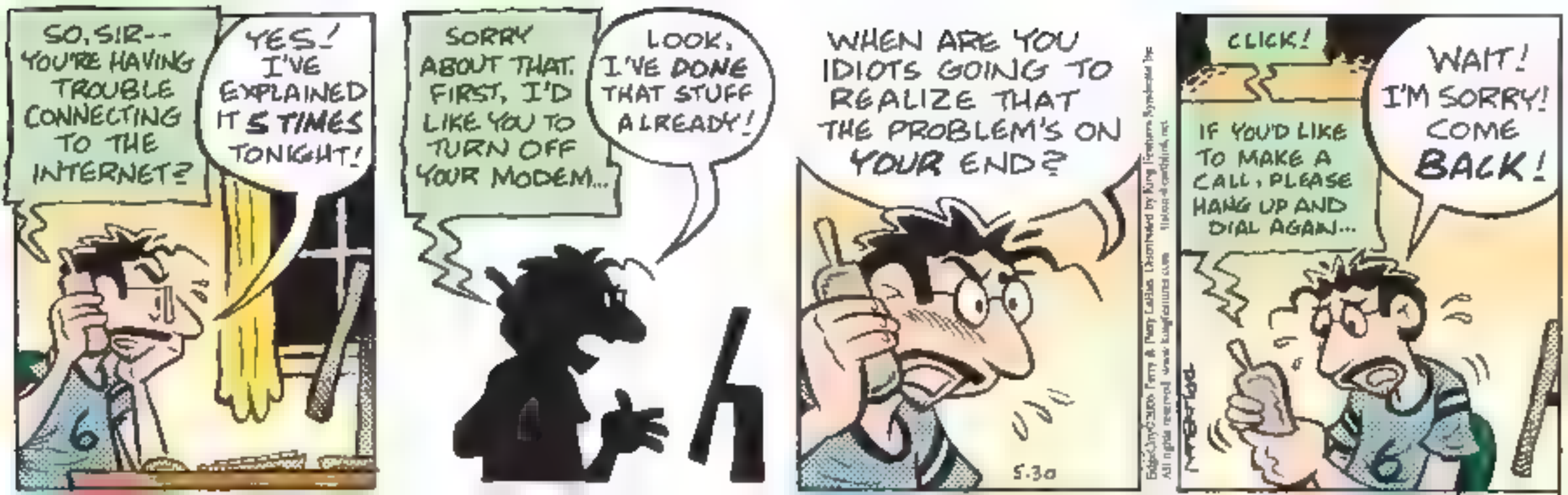

LOOK! "INTERNET CONNECTION FAILED". THIS STUPID COMPUTER!
CALM DOWN, ABBY. THERE'S NO USE GETTING MAD AT A MACHINE.
WE'LL JUST RESET THE SETTINGS TO "DEFAULT", TURN OFF THE MODEM AND REBOOT. NO BIG DEAL.
"INTERNET CONNECTION FAILED"?! THIS ★ ◎ $ ♪ COMPUTER!
WHAM!

WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING AND WE STILL CAN'T GET ONLINE! WE'D BETTER CALL TECH SUPPORT!
ABBY, IT'S 11:00 ALREADY!
LET'S WAIT TILL TOMORROW. MAYBE IT'LL STRAIGHTEN ITSELF OUT.
BUT WHAT IF IT DOESN'T? WE COULD END UP WITH NO EMAIL FOR ALMOST 24 HOURS!
WE'D BE COMPLETELY CUT OFF!
SIGH!... IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT.
5.26


THANK YOU FOR CALLING TECHNICAL SUPPORT. PLEASE HOLD FOR THE NEXT AVAILABLE TECHNICIAN
HELLO, THIS IS EDDIE. CAN I HAVE YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME, PLEASE?
HELLO?

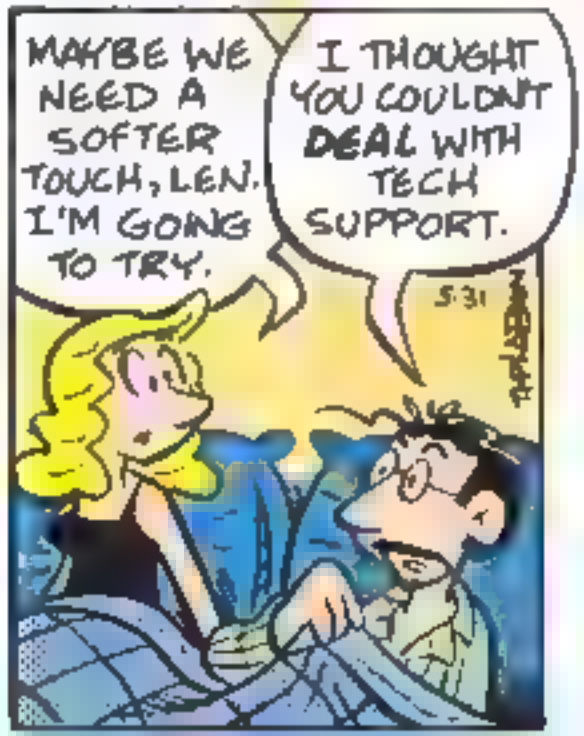

I NEVER USED TO CONSIDER WHAT MEMORIAL DAY IS REALLY ALL ABOUT.
IT WAS JUST A DAY OFF, A TIME TO HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS...
...GRILL SOME BURGERS, DRINK SOME BEERS AND SAY "HELLO" TO SUMMER.
SIGH!
AND NOW THE NEWS...
I MISS THAT.
YEAH. ME TOO.
3 U.S. SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN BAGHDAD TODAY...


HELLO, SIR. WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?
I CAN'T CONNECT TO THE INTERNET.
I'VE TRIED REBOOTING, CHANGING THE SETTINGS, CREATING NEW CONNECTIONS... NOTHING WORKS!
5-29
OK, SIR-- I'M GOING TO TRANSFER YOU TO A MORE SPECIALIZED DEPARTMENT.
JUST DON'T CUT ME OFF! I WAITED TO TALK TO SOMEONE FOR 2 HOURS!
CLICK!
IF YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A CALL, PLEASE HANG UP AND DIAL AGAIN...
NOOO!

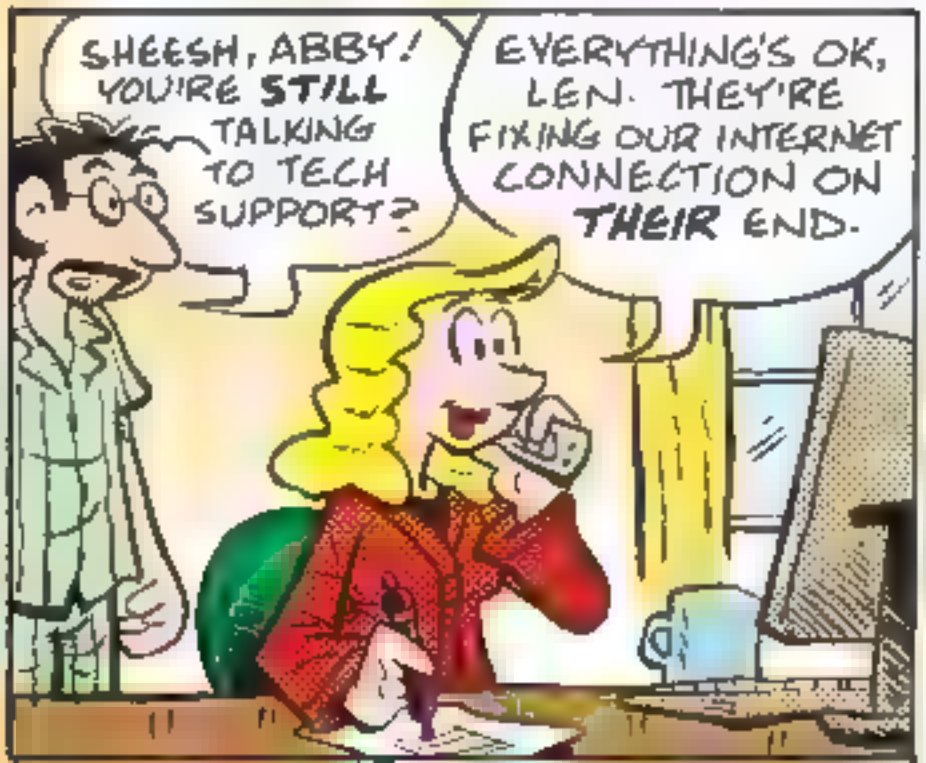

SO, SIR-- YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET?
YES! I'VE EXPLAINED IT 5 TIMES TONIGHT!
SORRY ABOUT THAT. FIRST, I'D LIKE YOU TO TURN OFF YOUR MODEM...
LOOK, I'VE DONE THAT STUFF ALREADY!
WHEN ARE YOU IDIOTS GOING TO REALIZE THAT THE PROBLEM'S ON YOUR END?
5.30
CLICK!
IF YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A CALL, PLEASE HANG UP AND DIAL AGAIN...
WAIT! I'M SORRY! COME BACK!

DID YOU MANAGE TO GET BACK ONLINE?
NO. THE 5 HOURS I JUST SPENT ON THE PHONE WERE A TOTAL WASTE.

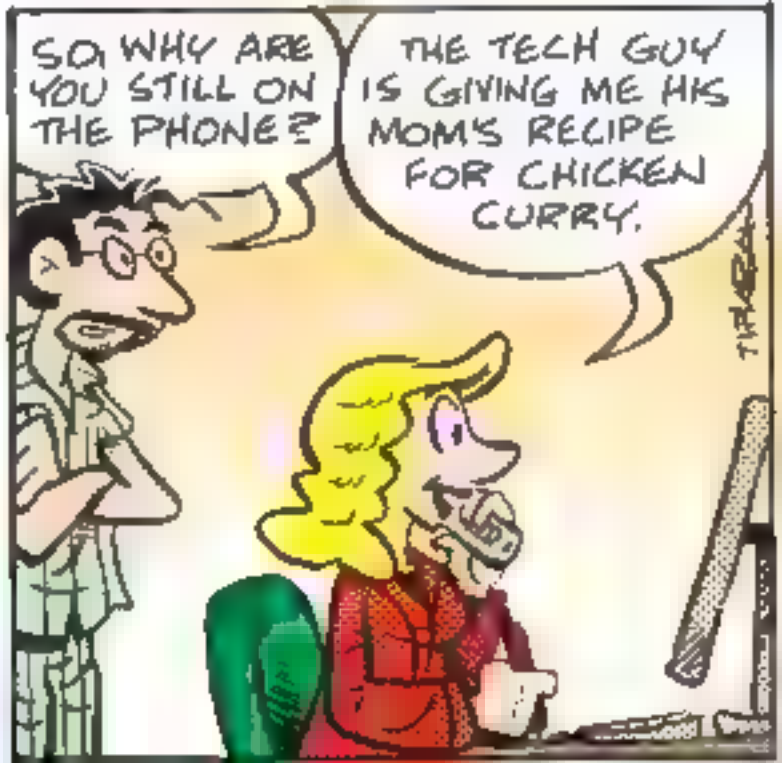
I'M SURE THE PROBLEM'S WITH OUR ISP. BUT IT'S VERY FRUSTRATING GETTING THEM TO ADMIT IT!

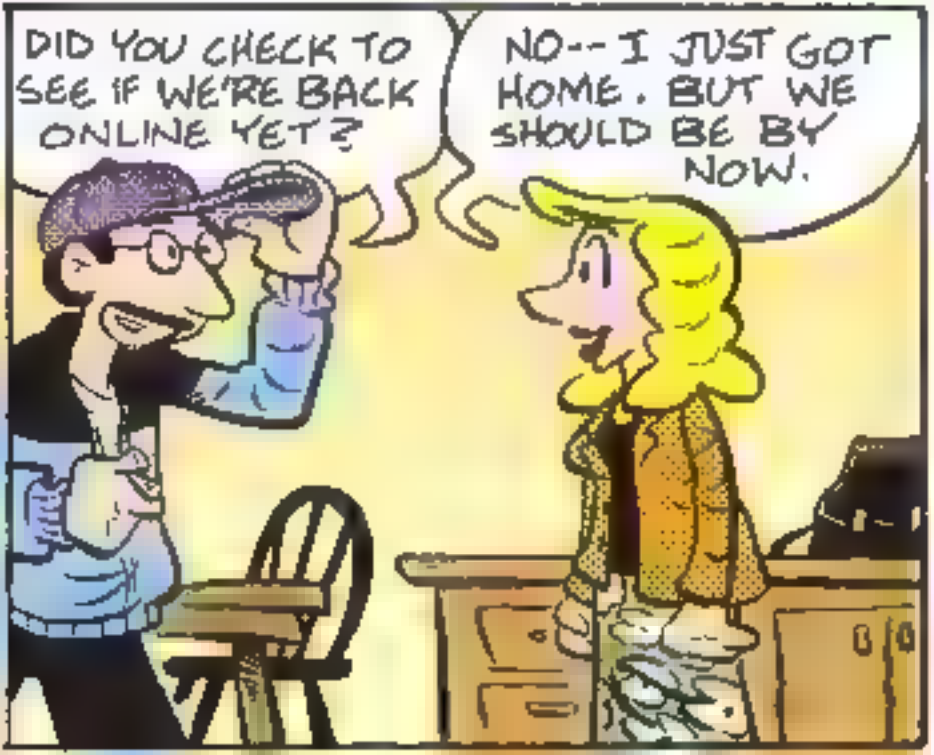

MAYBE WE NEED A SOFTER TOUCH, LEN. I'M GOING TO TRY.
I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T DEAL WITH TECH SUPPORT.

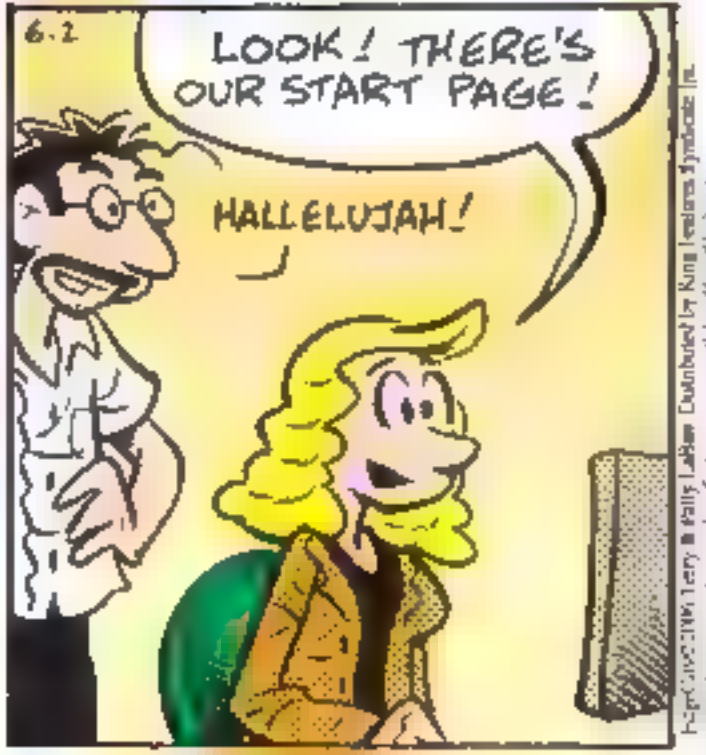
WHEN YOU'RE DESPERATE, YOU DISCOVER RESOURCES YOU NEVER KNEW YOU HAD.
YOU GO, GIRL.
ZZZZ...

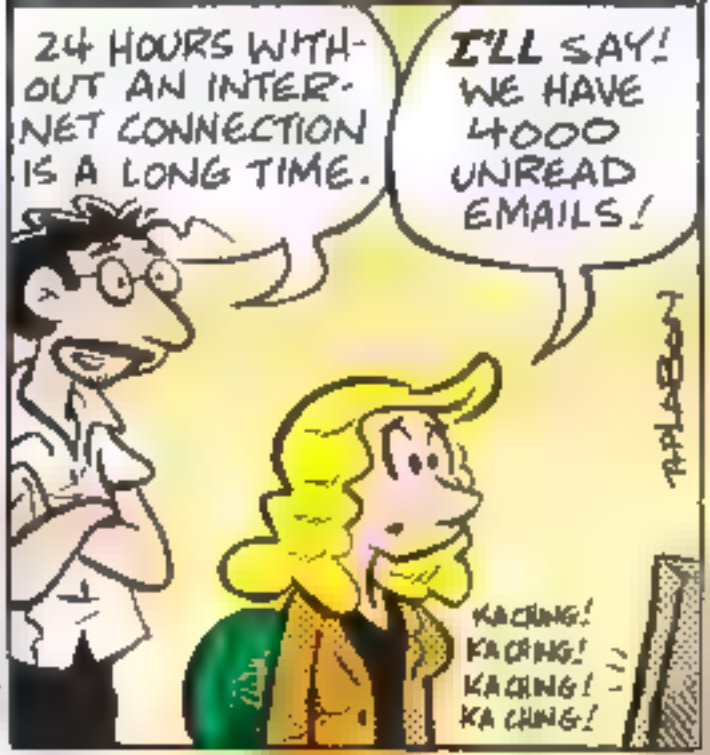

SHEESH, ABBY! YOU'RE STILL TALKING TO TECH SUPPORT?
EVERYTHING'S OK, LEN. THEY'RE FIXING OUR INTERNET CONNECTION ON THEIR END.

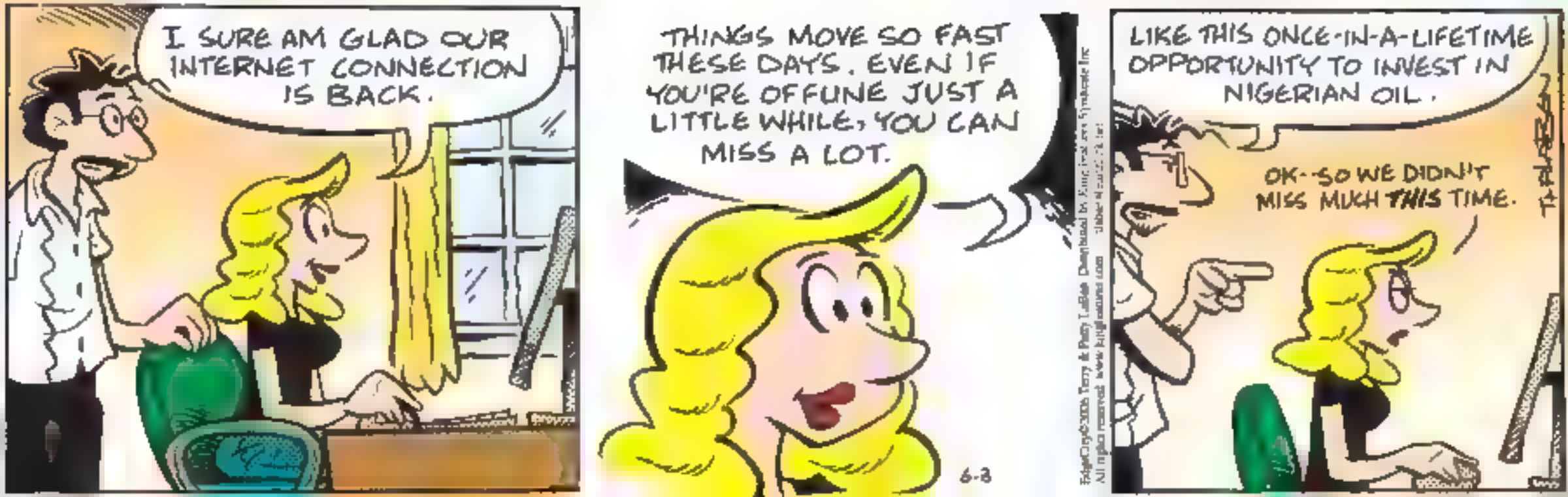
WAY TO GO! HOW'D YOU GET THEM TO REALIZE IT WASN'T US?
YOU JUST HAVE TO BE PATIENT AND REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH OTHER HUMAN BEINGS.
6-1

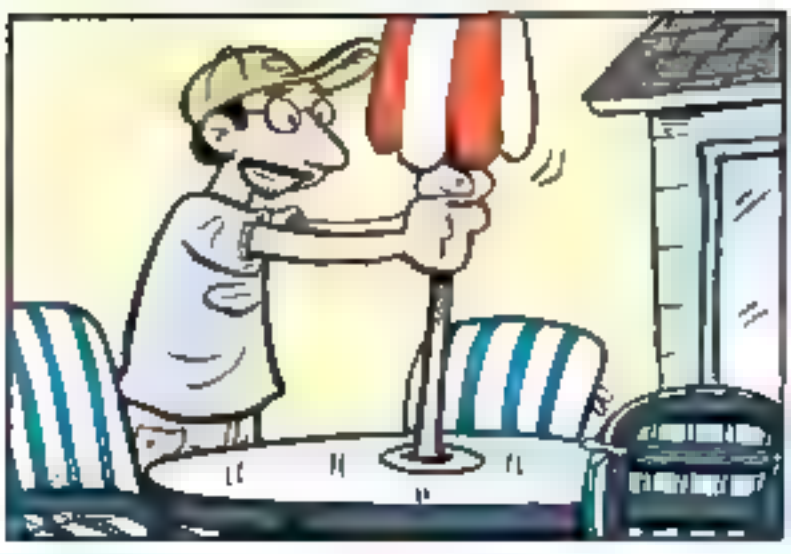

SO, WHY ARE YOU STILL ON THE PHONE?
THE TECH GUY IS GIVING ME HIS MOM'S RECIPE FOR CHICKEN CURRY.

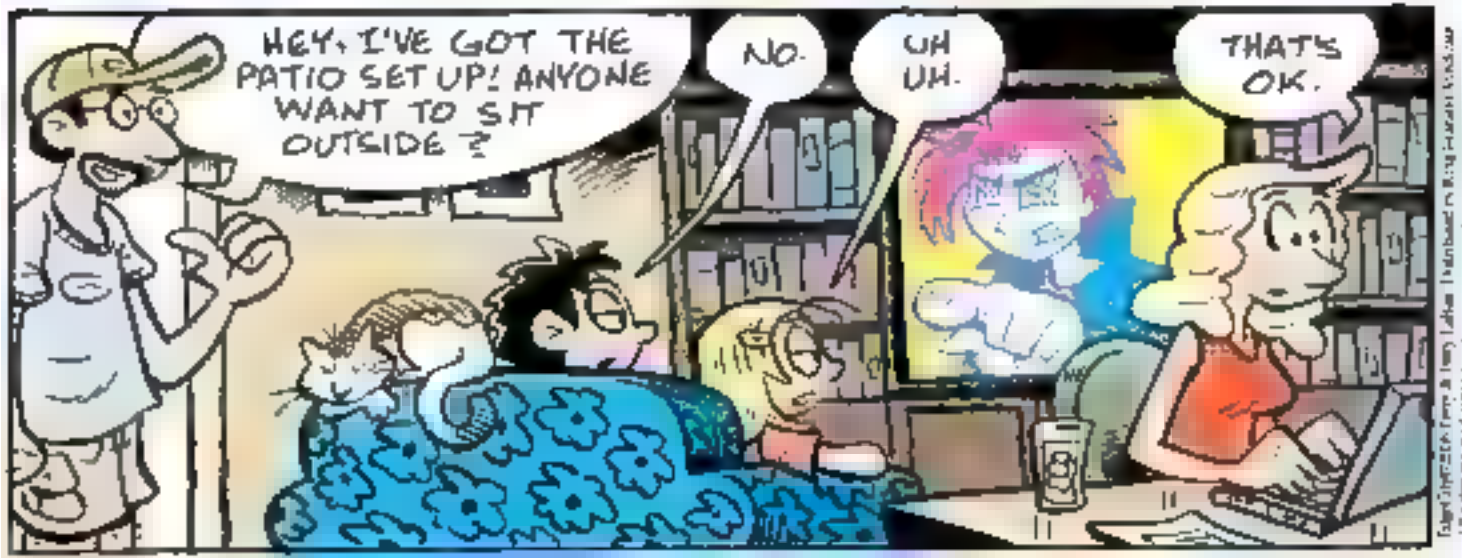

DID YOU CHECK TO SEE IF WE'RE BACK ONLINE YET?
NO--I JUST GOT HOME. BUT WE SHOULD BE BY NOW.

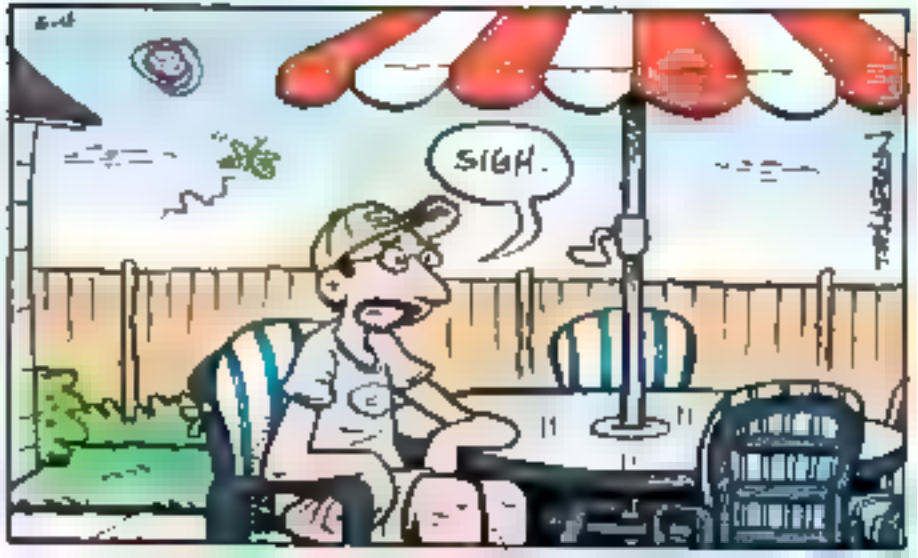

6.2
LOOK! THERE'S OUR START PAGE!
HALLELUJAH!

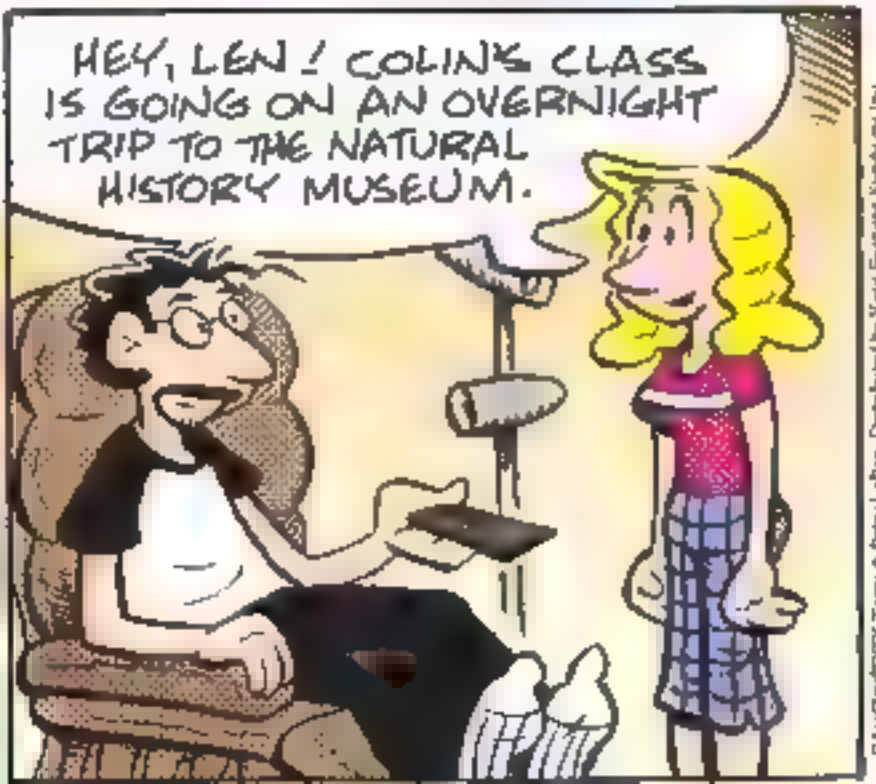

24 HOURS WITHOUT AN INTERNET CONNECTION IS A LONG TIME.
I'LL SAY! WE HAVE 4000 UNREAD EMAILS!
KACHING! KACHING! KACHING! KA CHING!


I SURE AM GLAD OUR INTERNET CONNECTION IS BACK.
THINGS MOVE SO FAST THESE DAYS. EVEN IF YOU'RE OFFLINE JUST A LITTLE WHILE, YOU CAN MISS A LOT.
6-8
LIKE THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN NIGERIAN OIL.
OK--SO WE DIDN'T MISS MUCH THIS TIME.




HEY, I'VE GOT THE PATIO SET UP! ANYONE WANT TO SIT OUTSIDE?
NO.
UH UH.
THAT'S OK.


SIGH.

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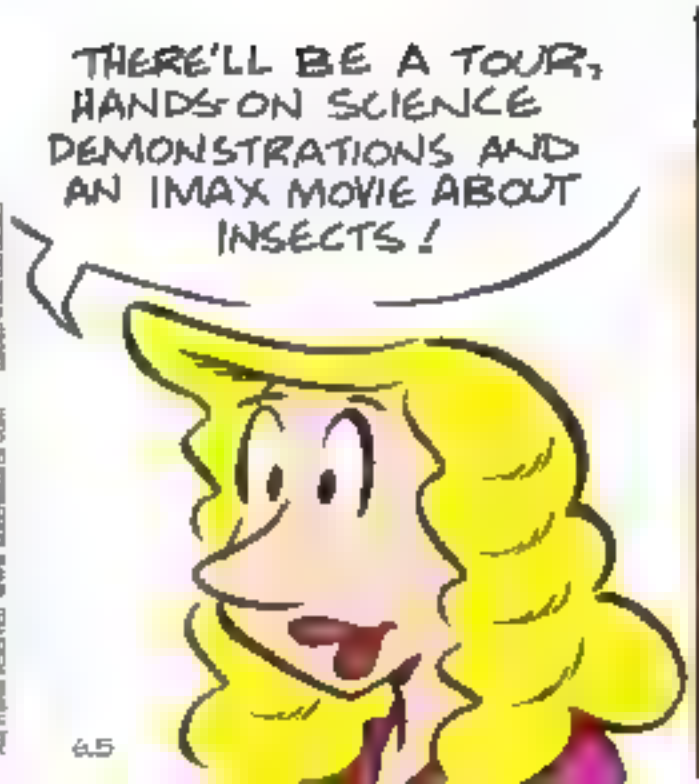




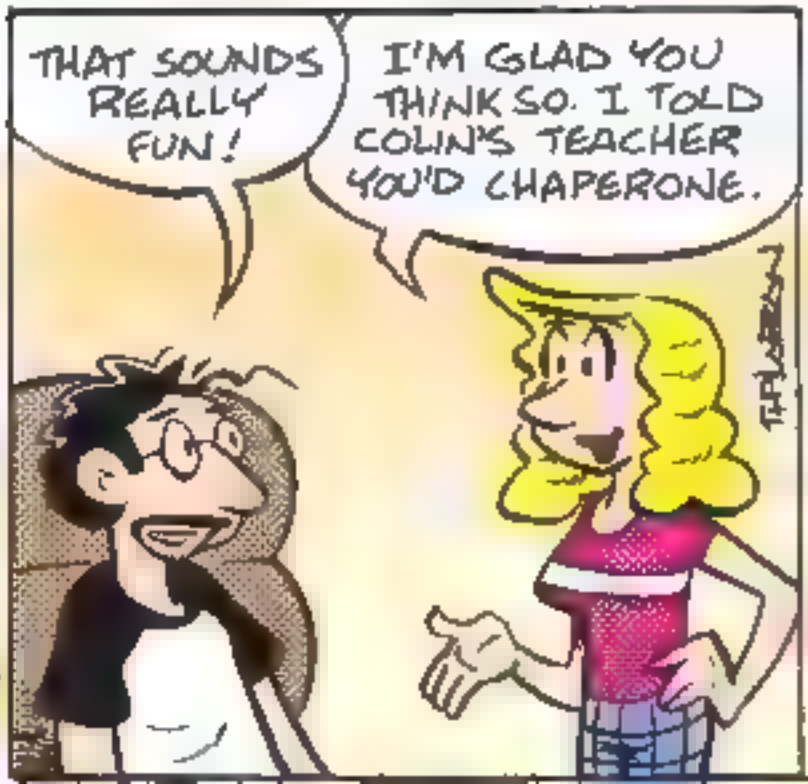

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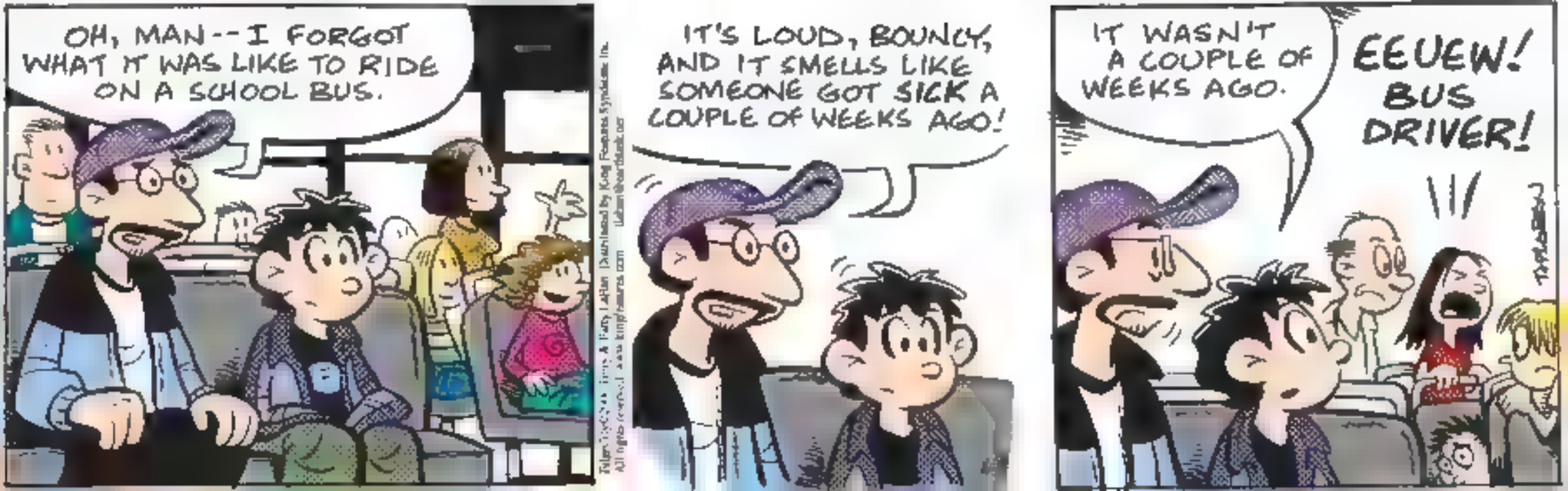
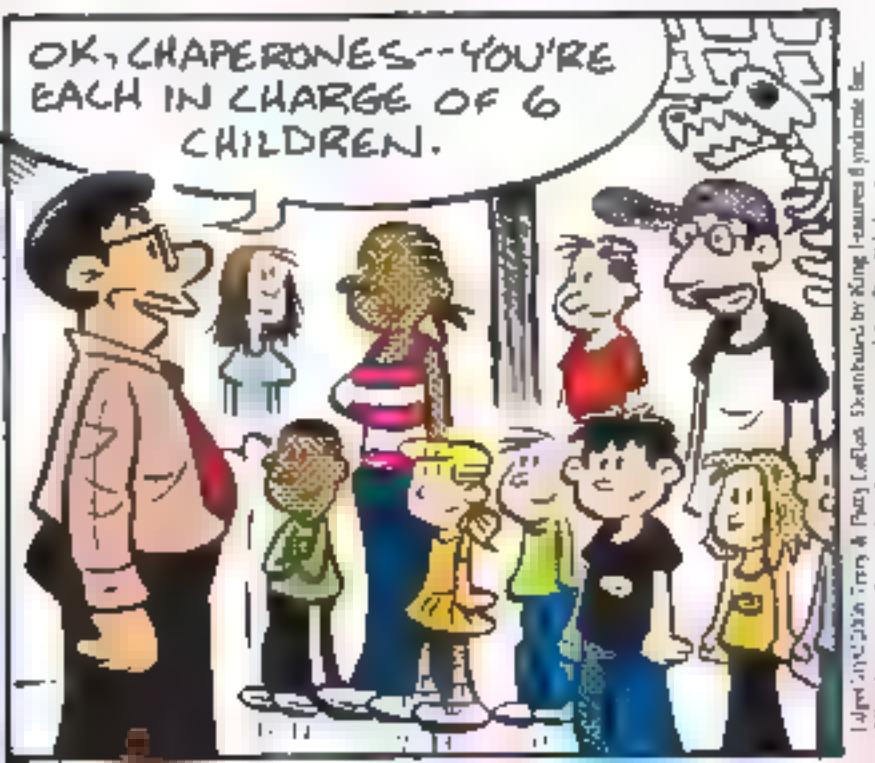
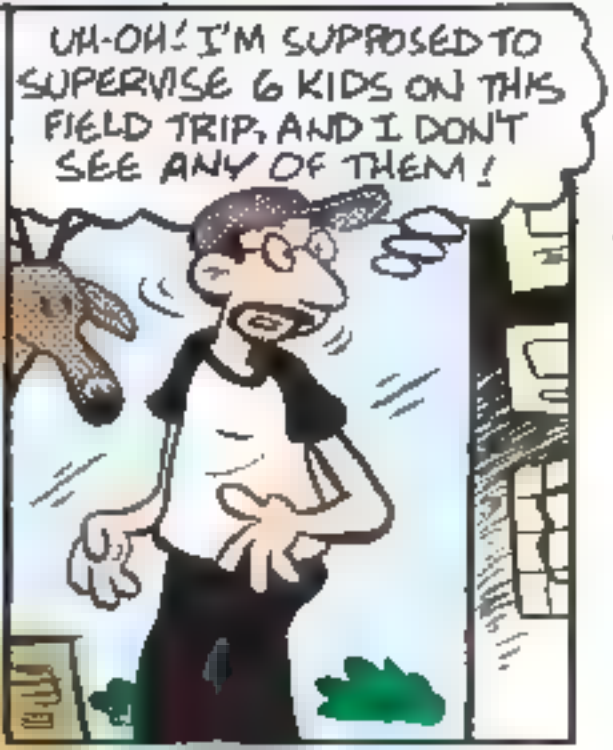
YOU'RE ALL PACKED TO CHAPERONE COLIN'S OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP TO THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM?
I THINK SO.
I'VE GOT A SLEEPING BAG, A FOAM PAD, A CHANGE OF CLOTHES...
...EARPLUGS, TYLENOL, SLEEP-EEZ...
TOM LABBAN
67


OH, MAN--I FORGOT WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO RIDE ON A SCHOOL BUS.
IT'S LOUD, BOUNCY, AND IT SMELLS LIKE SOMEONE GOT SICK A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO!
IT WASN'T A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.
EEUEW! BUS DRIVER!


OK, CHAPERONES--YOU'RE EACH IN CHARGE OF 6 CHILDREN.

YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE IN THE MUSEUM YOU WANT--JUST MAKE SURE YOUR KIDS ARE WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.

HEY, KIDS--CHECK THIS OUT!



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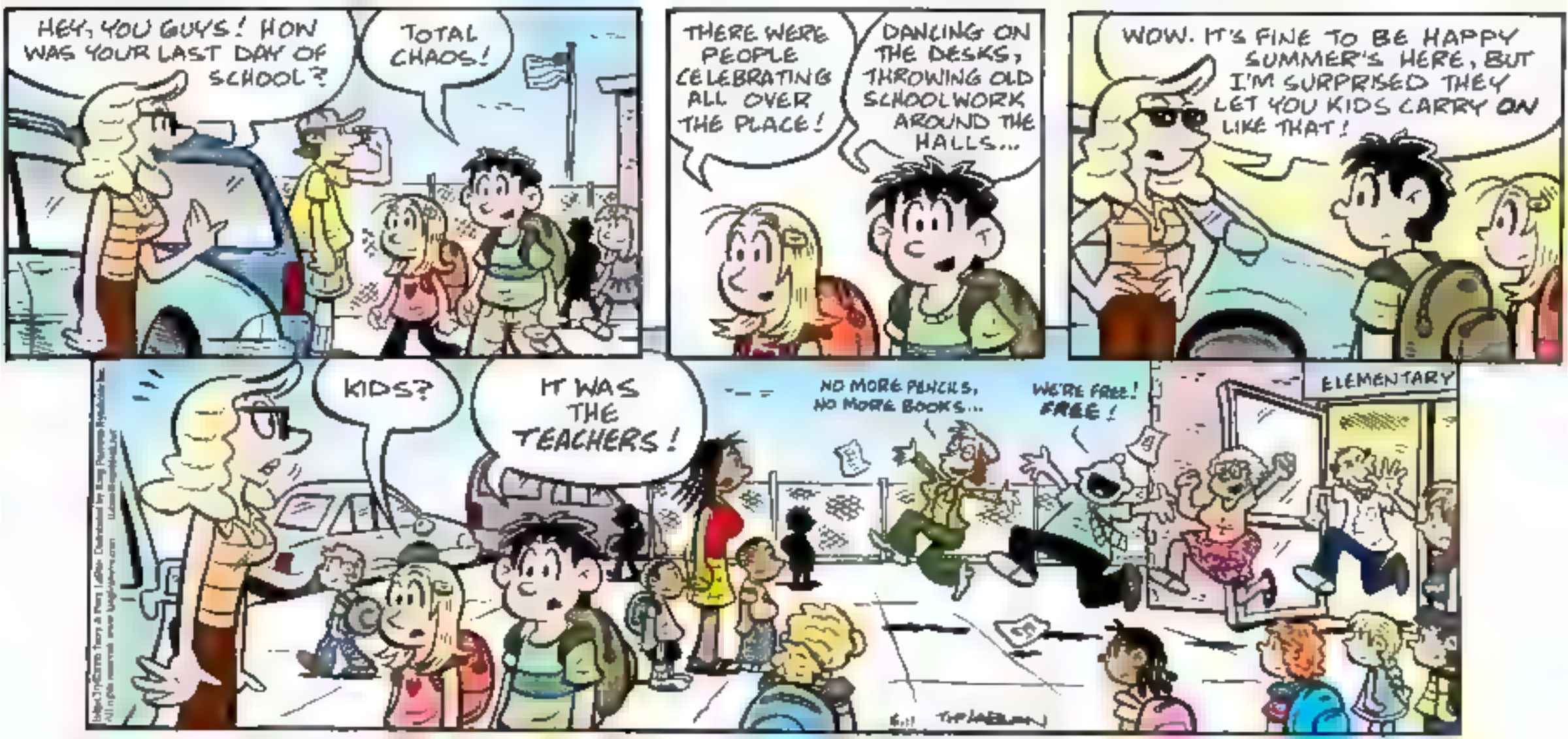
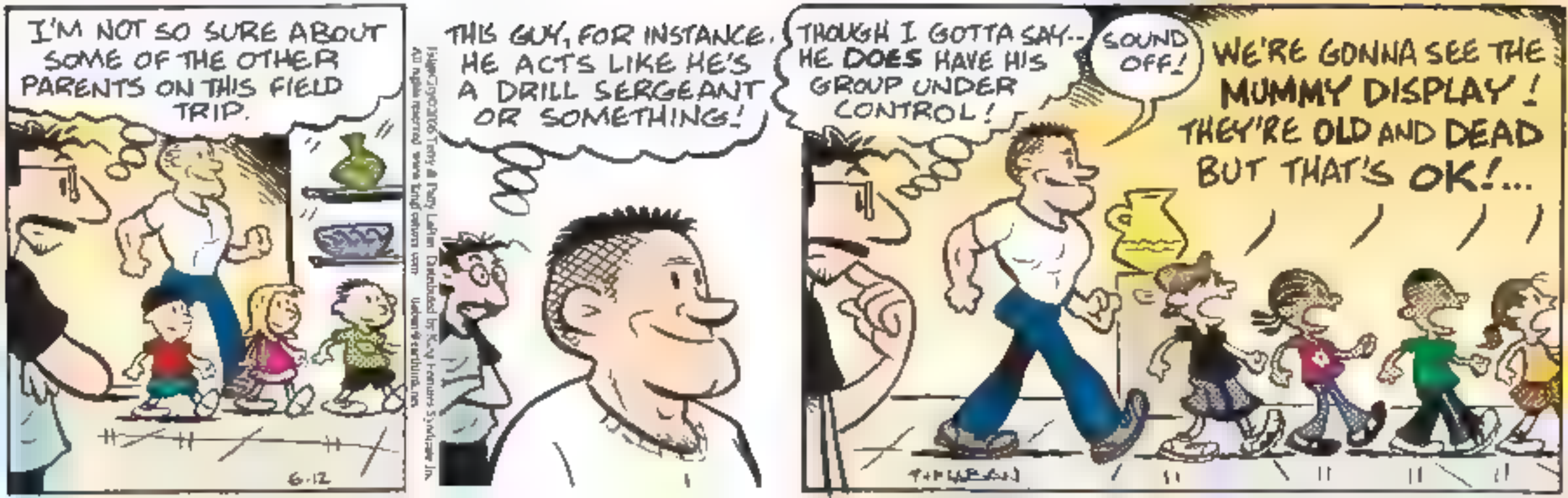
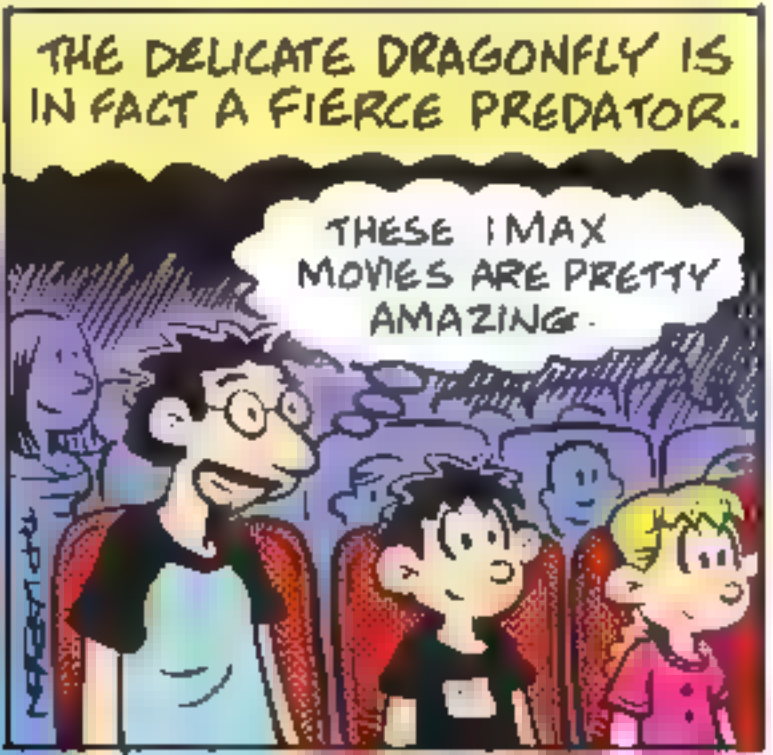
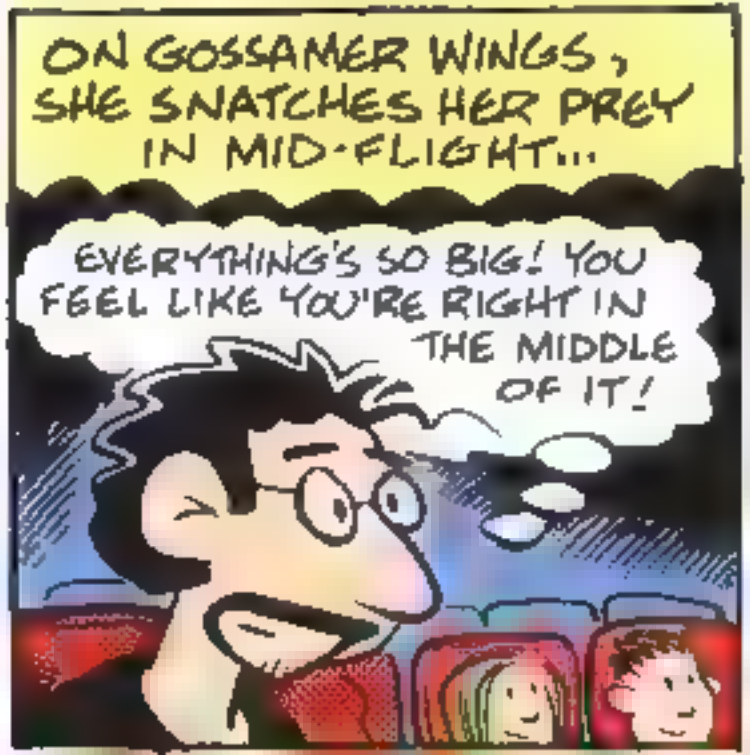
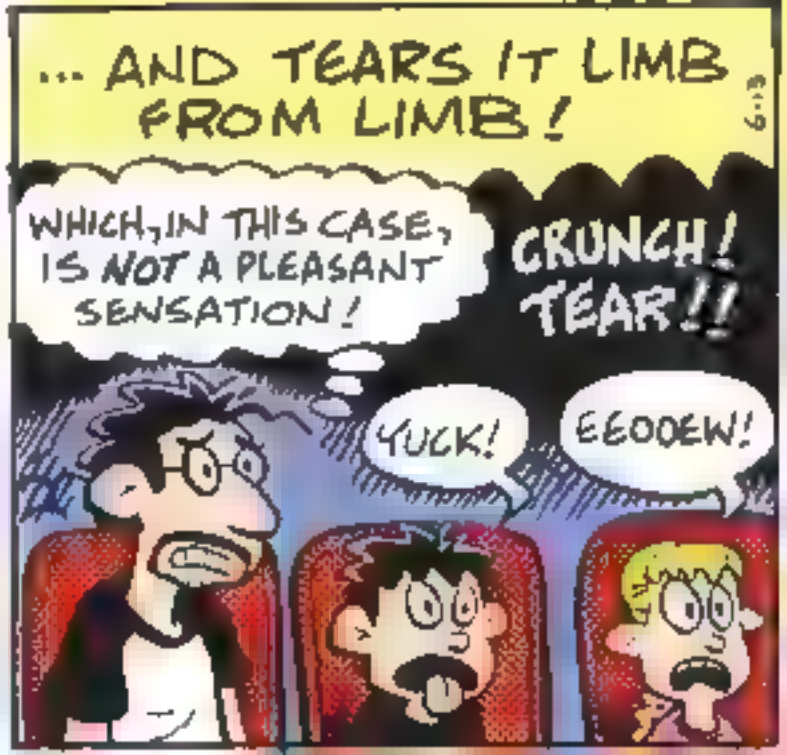
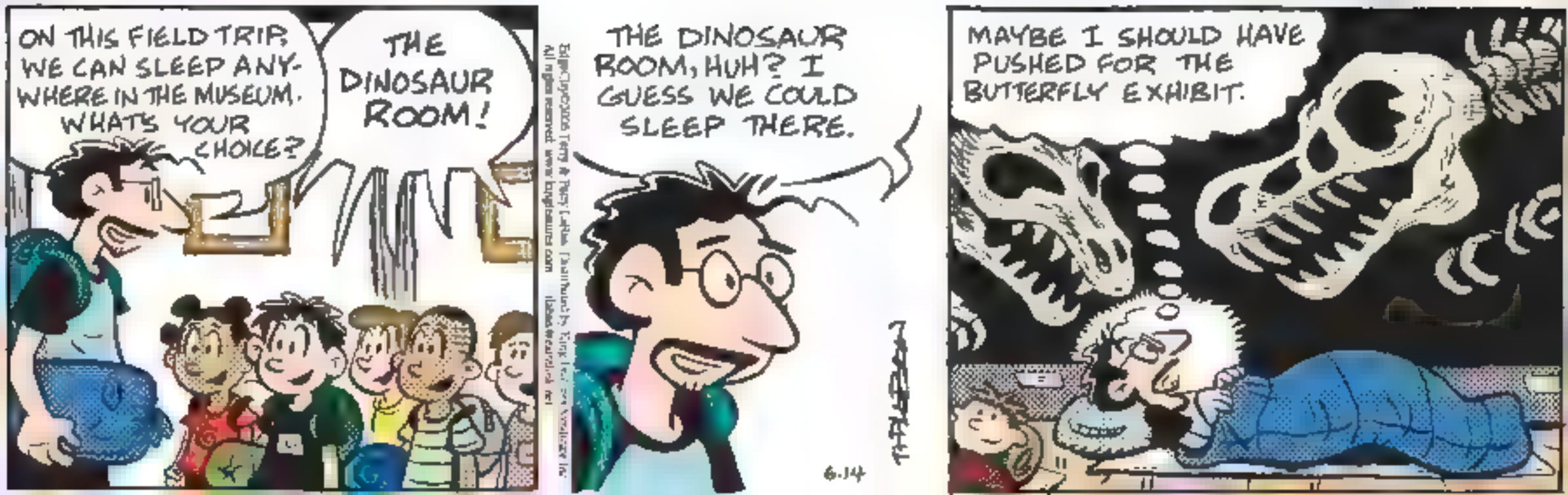

HEY, YOU GUYS! HOW WAS YOUR LAST DAY OF SCHOOL?
TOTAL CHAOS!
THERE WERE PEOPLE CELEBRATING ALL OVER THE PLACE!
DANCING ON THE DESKS, THROWING OLD SCHOOLWORK AROUND THE HALLS...
WOW. IT'S FINE TO BE HAPPY SUMMER'S HERE, BUT I'M SURPRISED THEY LET YOU KIDS CARRY ON LIKE THAT!
KIDS?
IT WAS THE TEACHERS!
NO MORE PENCILS, NO MORE BOOKS...
WE'RE FREE! FREE!
ELEMENTARY


I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT SOME OF THE OTHER PARENTS ON THIS FIELD TRIP.
6-12
THIS GUY, FOR INSTANCE. HE ACTS LIKE HE'S A DRILL SERGEANT OR SOMETHING!
THOUGH I GOTTA SAY-- HE DOES HAVE HIS GROUP UNDER CONTROL!
SOUND OFF!
WE'RE GONNA SEE THE MUMMY DISPLAY! THEY'RE OLD AND DEAD BUT THAT'S OK!...
THURBAN

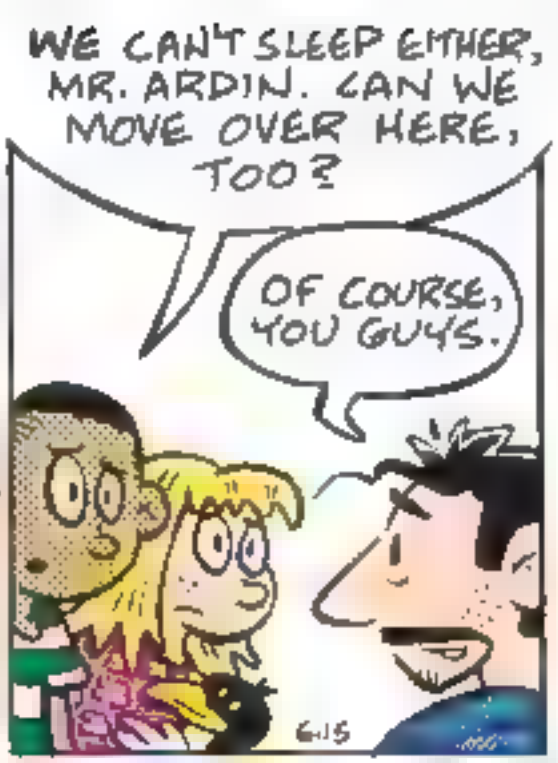

THE DELICATE DRAGONFLY IS IN FACT A FIERCE PREDATOR.
THESE IMAX MOVIES ARE PRETTY AMAZING.

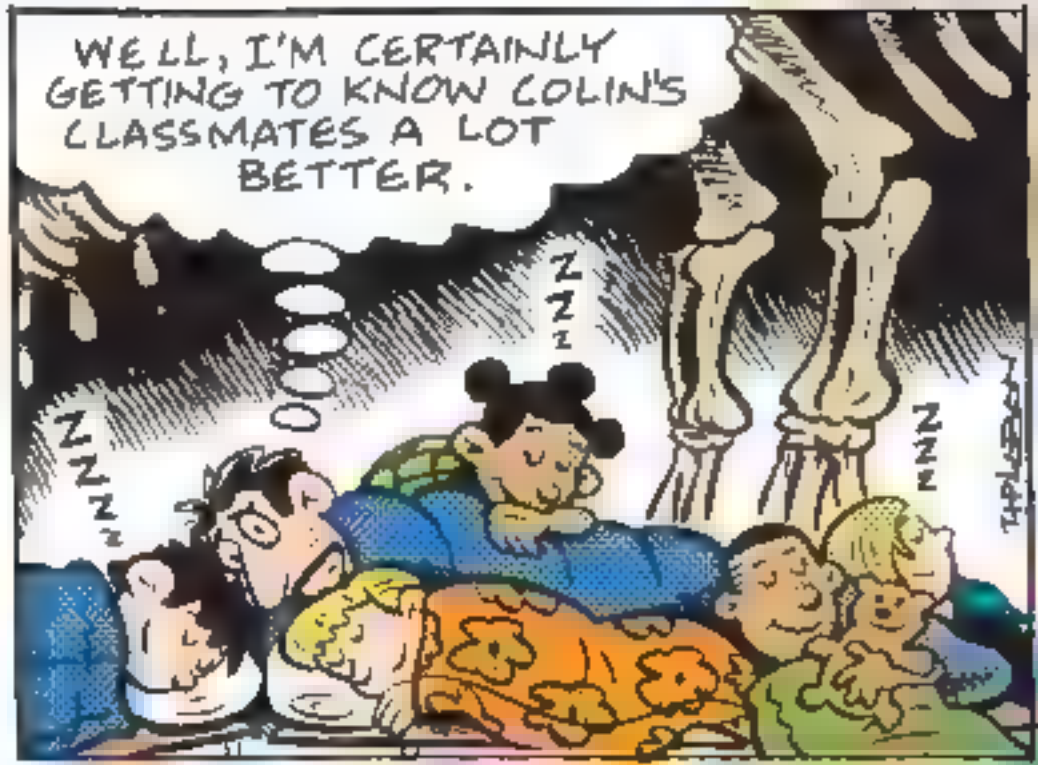

ON GOSSAMER WINGS, SHE SNATCHES HER PREY IN MID-FLIGHT...
EVERYTHING'S SO BIG! YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT!

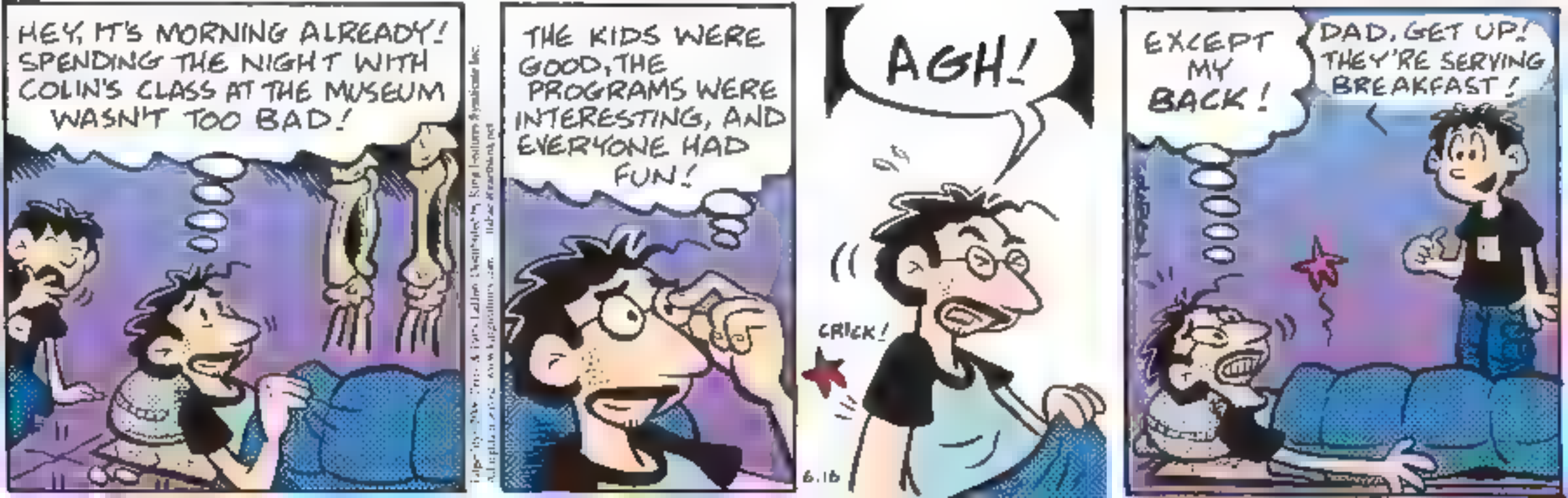

... AND TEARS IT LIMB FROM LIMB!
WHICH, IN THIS CASE, IS NOT A PLEASANT SENSATION!
CRUNCH! TEAR!!
YUCK!
EEOOEW!

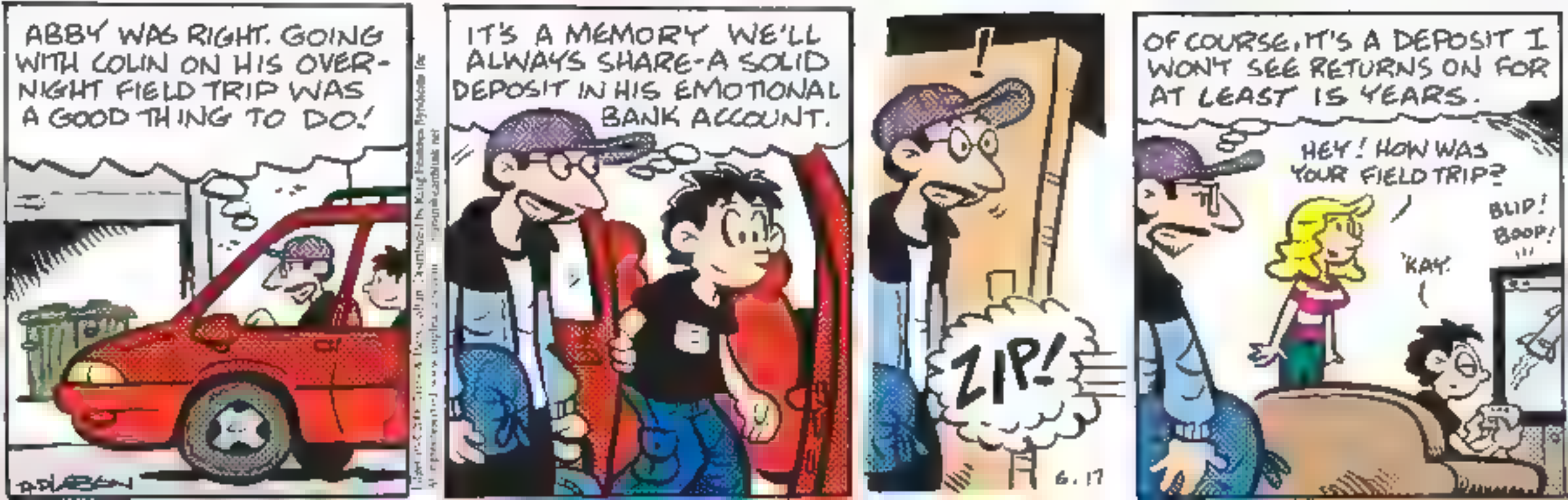

ON THIS FIELD TRIP, WE CAN SLEEP ANYWHERE IN THE MUSEUM. WHAT'S YOUR CHOICE?
THE DINOSAUR ROOM!
THE DINOSAUR ROOM, HUH? I GUESS WE COULD SLEEP THERE.
6-14
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE PUSHED FOR THE BUTTERFLY EXHIBIT.

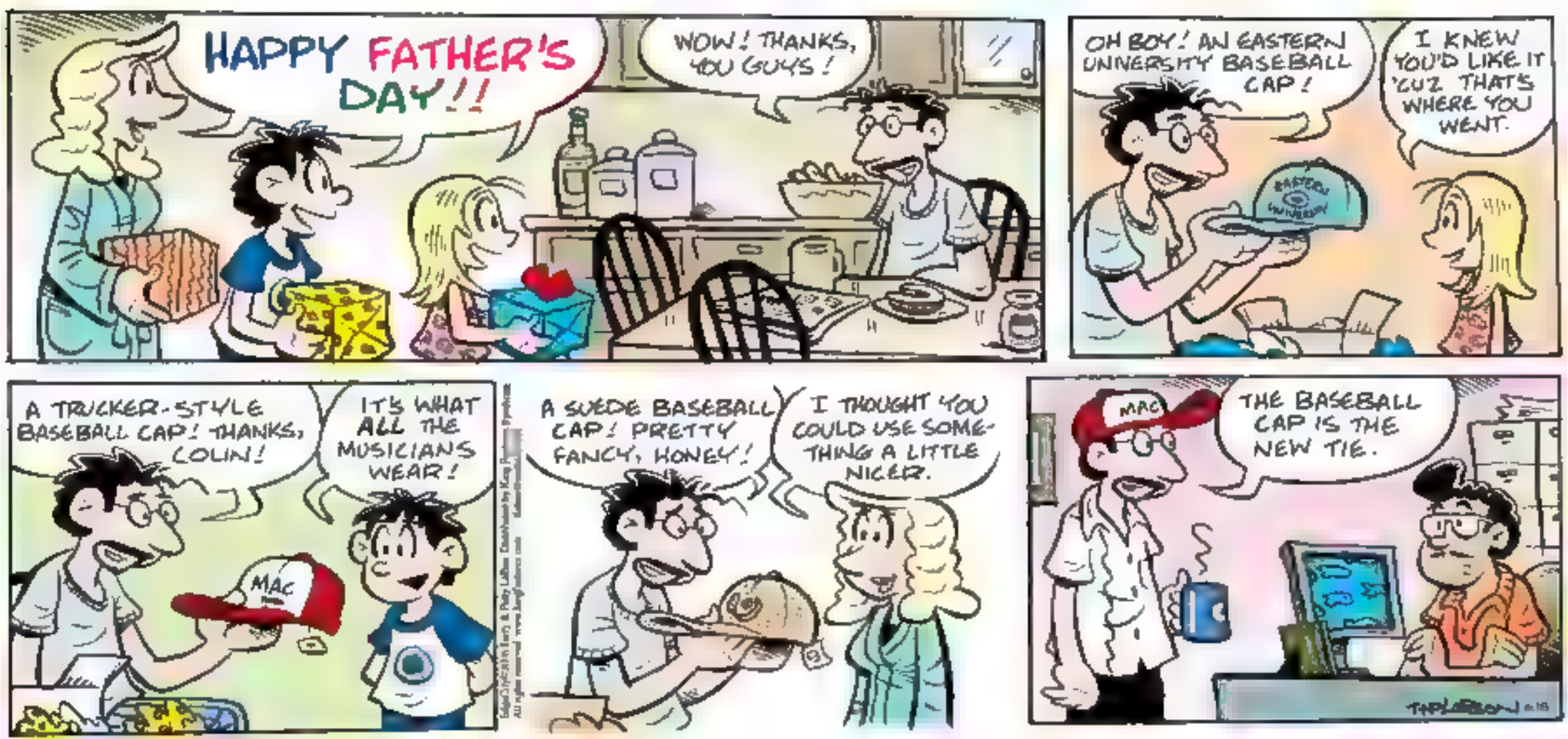
DAD, IT'S KIND OF SPOOKY IN THE MUSEUM. CAN I SLEEP NEXT TO YOU?
SURE, COLIN.

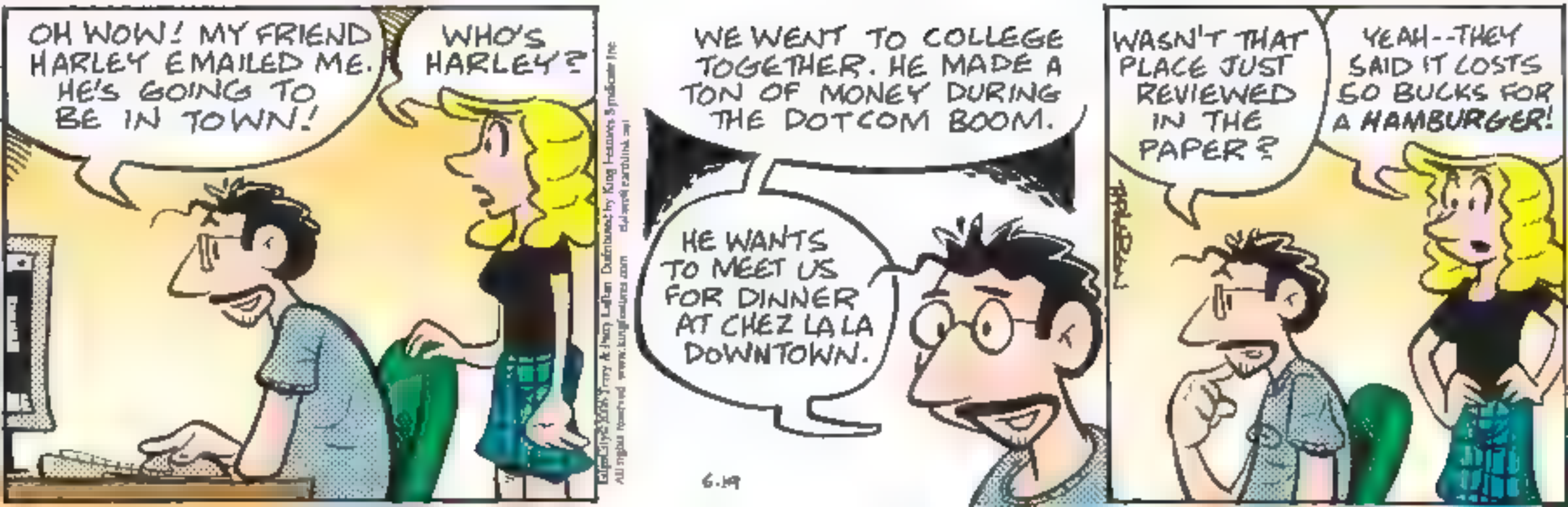

WE CAN'T SLEEP EITHER, MR. ARDIN. CAN WE MOVE OVER HERE, TOO?
OF COURSE, YOU GUYS.


WELL, I'M CERTAINLY GETTING TO KNOW COLIN'S CLASSMATES A LOT BETTER.
ZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZ

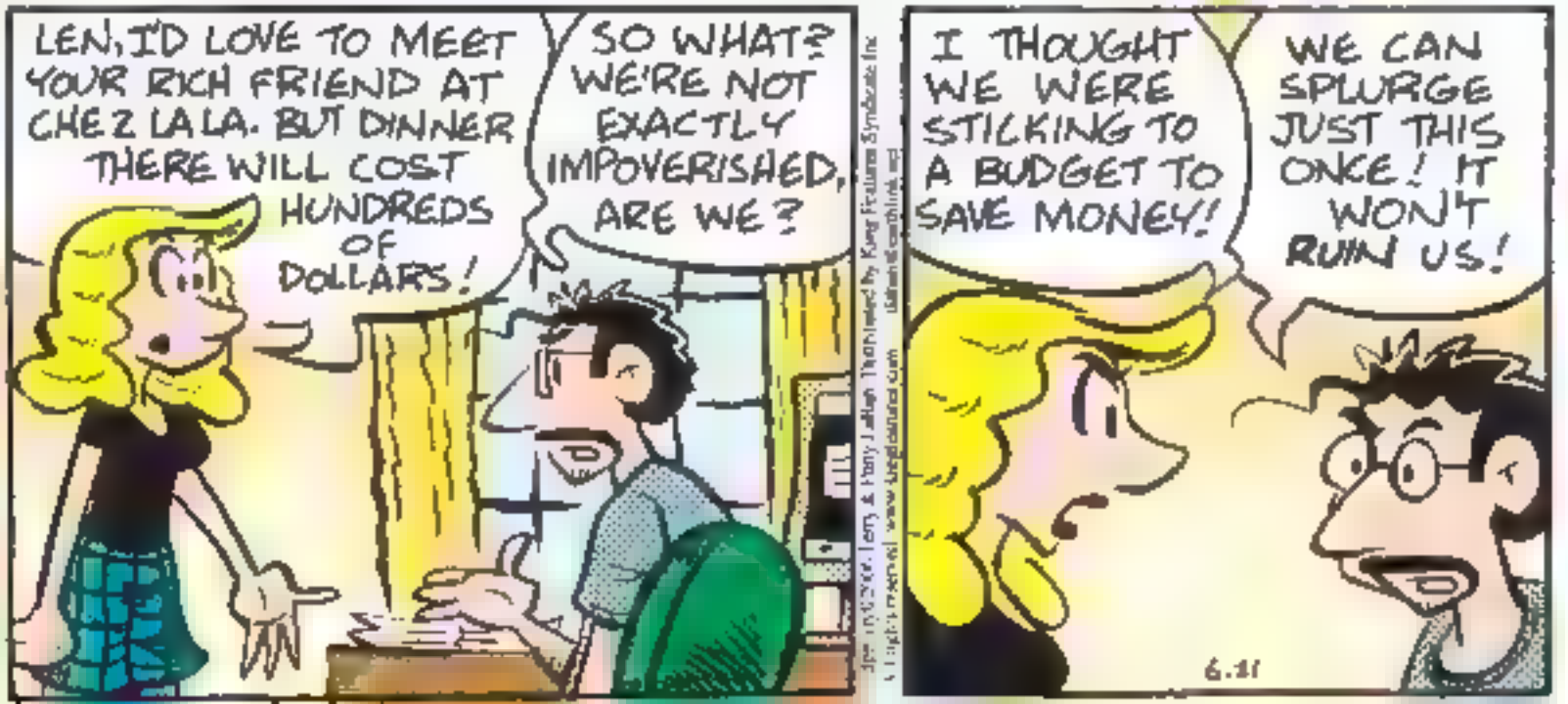

HEY, IT'S MORNING ALREADY! SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH COLIN'S CLASS AT THE MUSEUM WASN'T TOO BAD!
THE KIDS WERE GOOD, THE PROGRAMS WERE INTERESTING, AND EVERYONE HAD FUN!
AGH!
CRICK!
6.16
EXCEPT MY BACK!
DAD, GET UP! THEY'RE SERVING BREAKFAST!

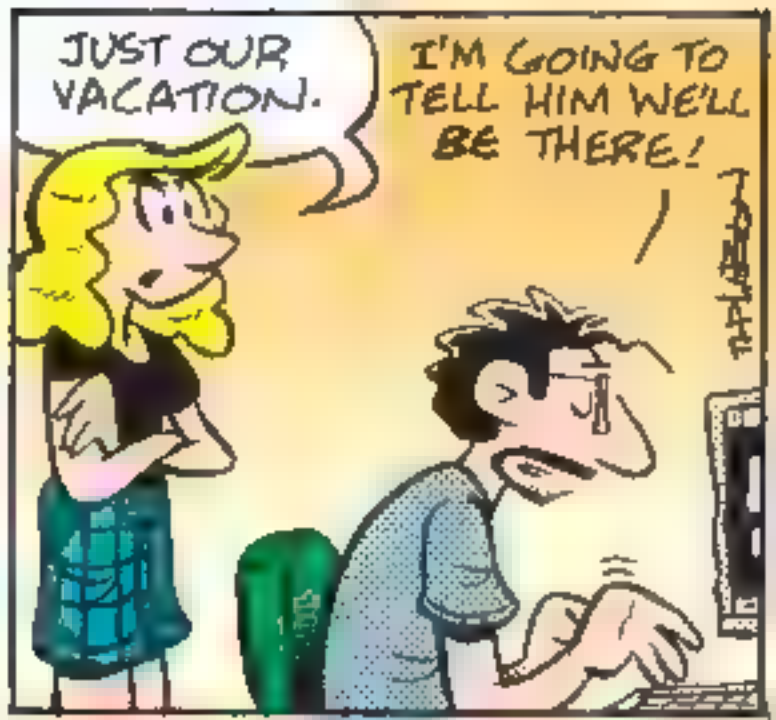

ABBY WAS RIGHT. GOING WITH COLIN ON HIS OVER-NIGHT FIELD TRIP WAS A GOOD THING TO DO!
IT'S A MEMORY WE'LL ALWAYS SHARE-A SOLID DEPOSIT IN HIS EMOTIONAL BANK ACCOUNT.
!
ZIP!
6.17
OF COURSE, IT'S A DEPOSIT I WON'T SEE RETURNS ON FOR AT LEAST 15 YEARS.
HEY! HOW WAS YOUR FIELD TRIP?
'KAY.
BLIP! BOOP!


HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!
WOW! THANKS, YOU GUYS!
OH BOY! AN EASTERN UNIVERSITY BASEBALL CAP!
I KNEW YOU'D LIKE IT 'CUZ THAT'S WHERE YOU WENT.
A TRUCKER-STYLE BASEBALL CAP! THANKS, COLIN!
IT'S WHAT ALL THE MUSICIANS WEAR!
MAC
A SUEDE BASEBALL CAP! PRETTY FANCY, HONEY!
I THOUGHT YOU COULD USE SOMETHING A LITTLE NICER.
MAC
THE BASEBALL CAP IS THE NEW TIE.

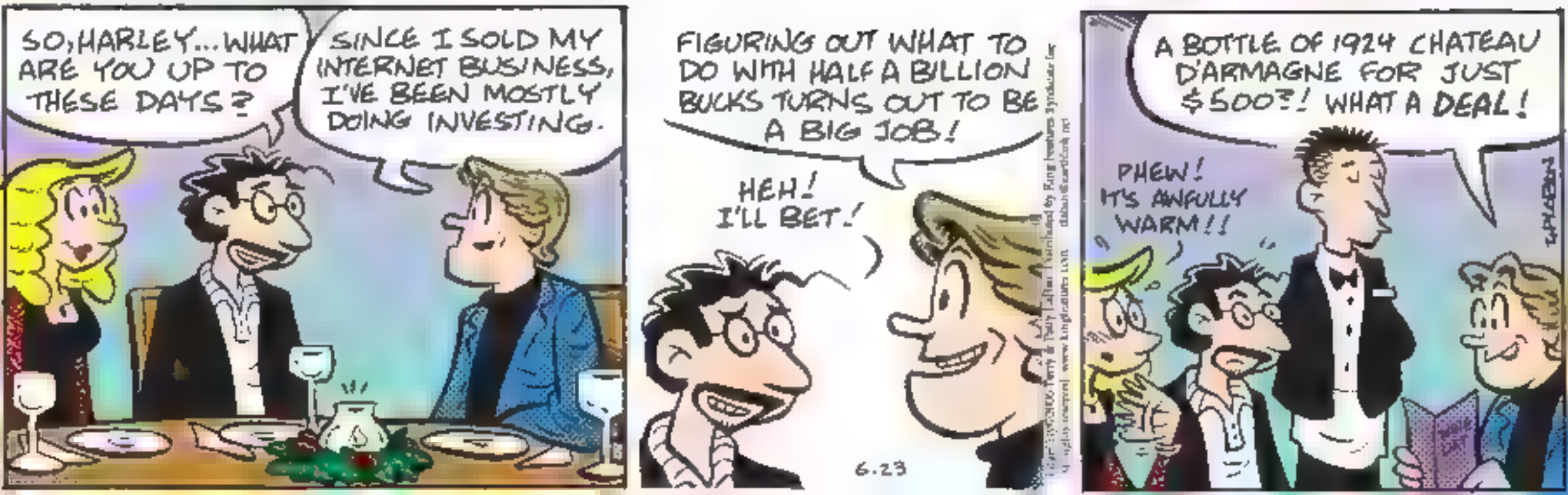

OH WOW! MY FRIEND HARLEY EMAILED ME. HE'S GOING TO BE IN TOWN!
WHO'S HARLEY?
WE WENT TO COLLEGE TOGETHER. HE MADE A TON OF MONEY DURING THE DOTCOM BOOM.
HE WANTS TO MEET US FOR DINNER AT CHEZ LA LA DOWNTOWN.
WASN'T THAT PLACE JUST REVIEWED IN THE PAPER?
YEAH--THEY SAID IT COSTS 50 BUCKS FOR A HAMBURGER!
6-19

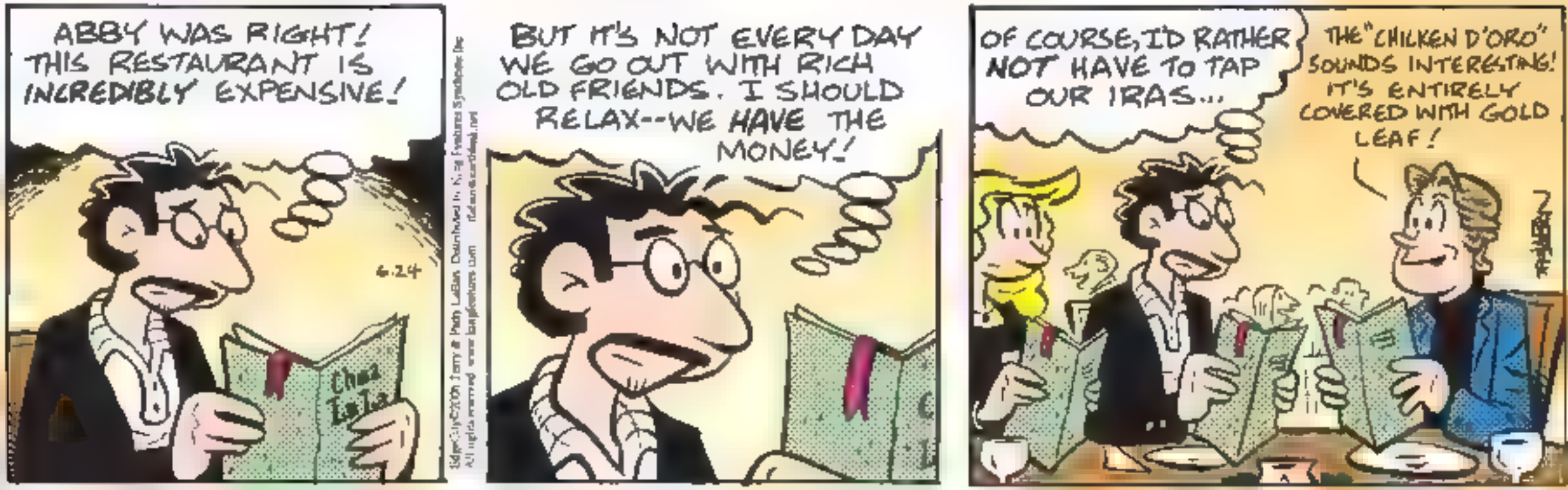
LEN, WHY DO WE HAVE TO MEET YOUR FRIEND FOR DINNER AT THE MOST EXPENSIVE PLACE IN TOWN?
HE'S USED TO EATING WELL, ABBY! HE'S RICH!
WELL, WE'RE NOT!
FINE. I'LL TELL HIM WE'D LIKE TO GO, BUT CHEZ LALA IS A BIT OUT OF OUR LEAGUE.
6-20
SHALL I SUGGEST WE MEET TO SAMPLE THE 99¢ MENU AT THE NEAREST BURGERLAND?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT AND YOU KNOW IT!


LEN, I'D LOVE TO MEET YOUR RICH FRIEND AT CHEZ LALA. BUT DINNER THERE WILL COST HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS!
SO WHAT? WE'RE NOT EXACTLY IMPOVERISHED, ARE WE?
I THOUGHT WE WERE STICKING TO A BUDGET TO SAVE MONEY!
WE CAN SPLURGE JUST THIS ONCE! IT WON'T RUIN US!
6.21


JUST OUR VACATION.
I'M GOING TO TELL HIM WE'LL BE THERE!

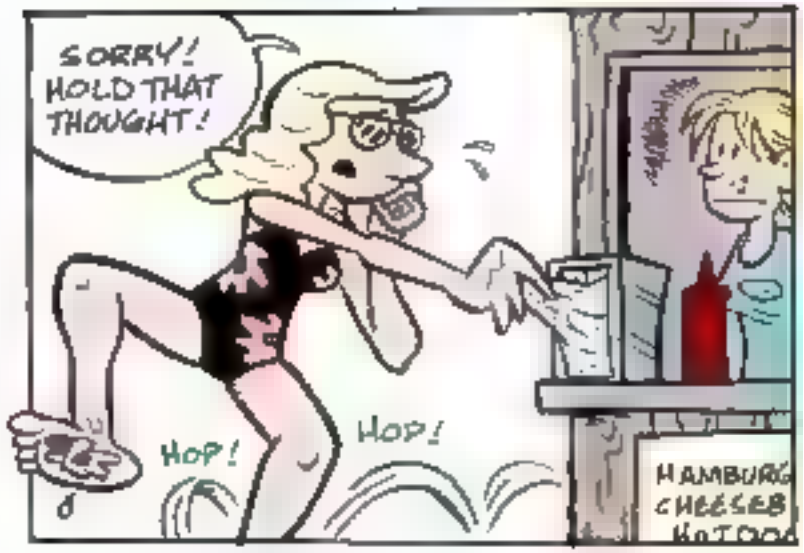
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YA, LEN!
YOU, TOO, HARLEY! THIS IS MY WIFE, ABBY!
THIS IS QUITE A SWANKY RESTAURANT!
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST IN TOWN. WHY DON'T YOU CHECK YOUR COATS?
6-22
2 COATS? THAT'LL BE 40 DOLLARS.
THEY RAN OUT OF HANGERS! HEH!

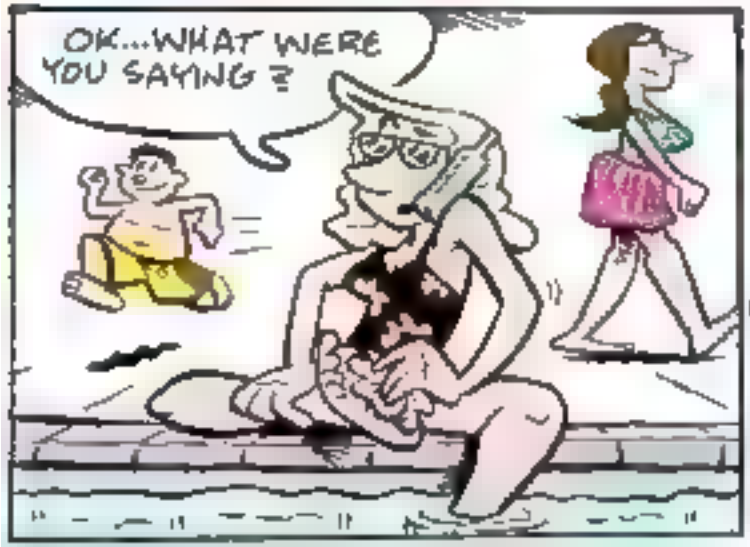

SO, HARLEY... WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THESE DAYS?
SINCE I SOLD MY INTERNET BUSINESS, I'VE BEEN MOSTLY DOING INVESTING.
FIGURING OUT WHAT TO DO WITH HALF A BILLION BUCKS TURNS OUT TO BE A BIG JOB!
HEH! I'LL BET!
6.23
A BOTTLE OF 1924 CHATEAU D'ARMAGNE FOR JUST $500?! WHAT A DEAL!
PHEW! IT'S AWFULLY WARM!!


ABBY WAS RIGHT! THIS RESTAURANT IS INCREDIBLY EXPENSIVE!
6.24
Chez La La
BUT IT'S NOT EVERY DAY WE GO OUT WITH RICH OLD FRIENDS. I SHOULD RELAX--WE HAVE THE MONEY!
OF COURSE, I'D RATHER NOT HAVE TO TAP OUR IRAS...
THE "CHICKEN D'ORO" SOUNDS INTERESTING! IT'S ENTIRELY COVERED WITH GOLD LEAF!

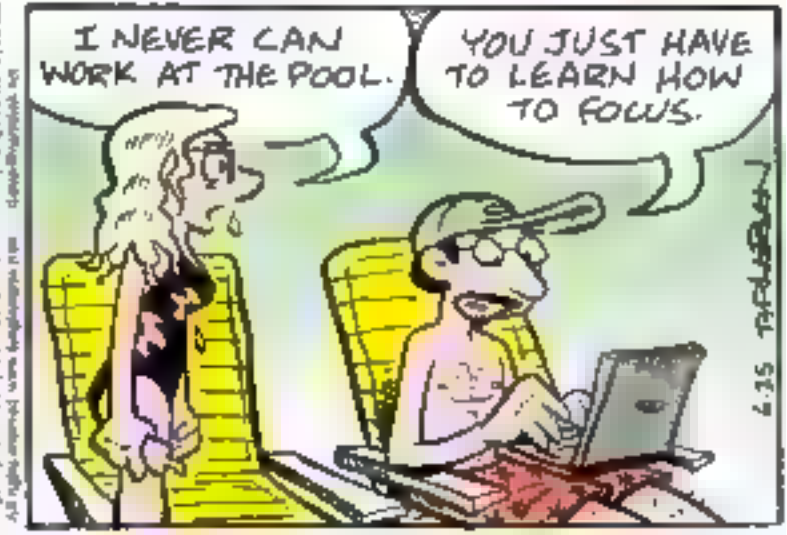
ANDREA? THIS IS DR. ARDIN. I'M RETURNING YOUR CALL ABOUT TUESDAY'S APPOINTMENT.

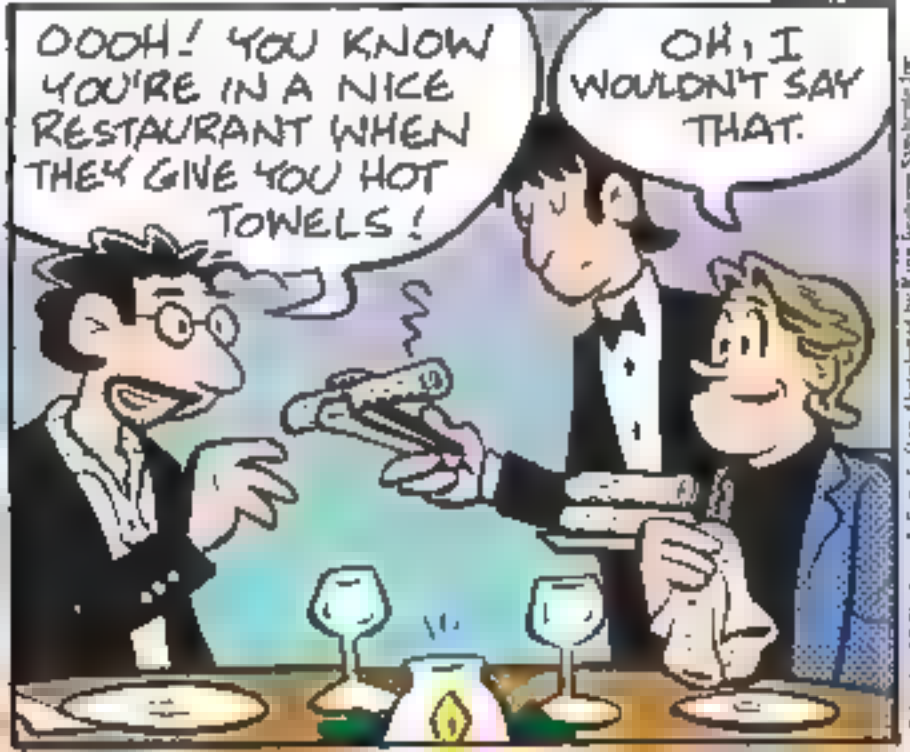
WHAT THE... EXCUSE ME A MINUTE!
SQUISH!


SORRY! HOLD THAT THOUGHT!
HOP!
HOP!
HAMBURG CHEESEB

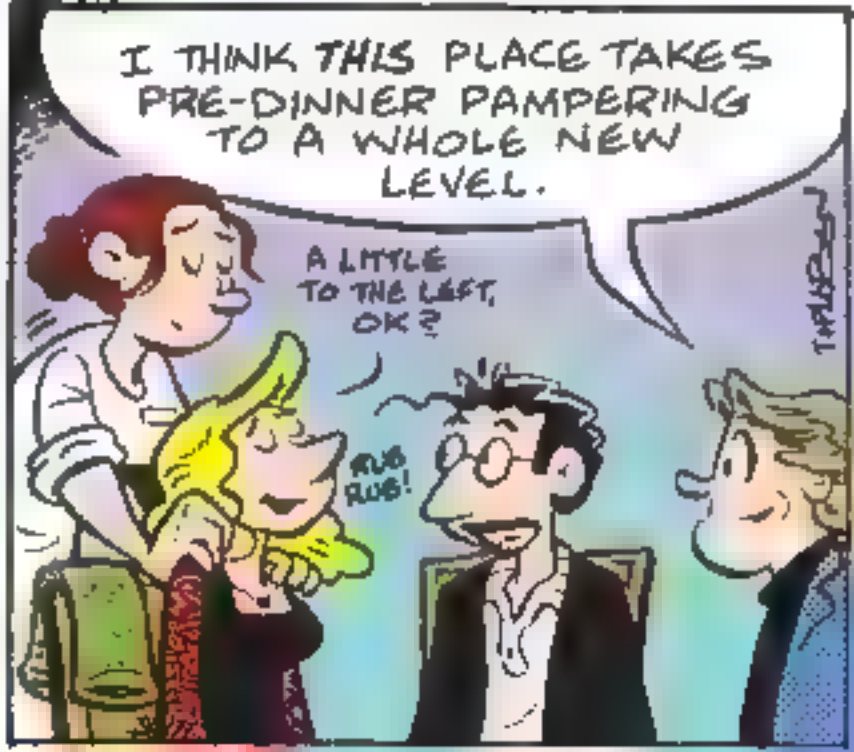

OK...WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?

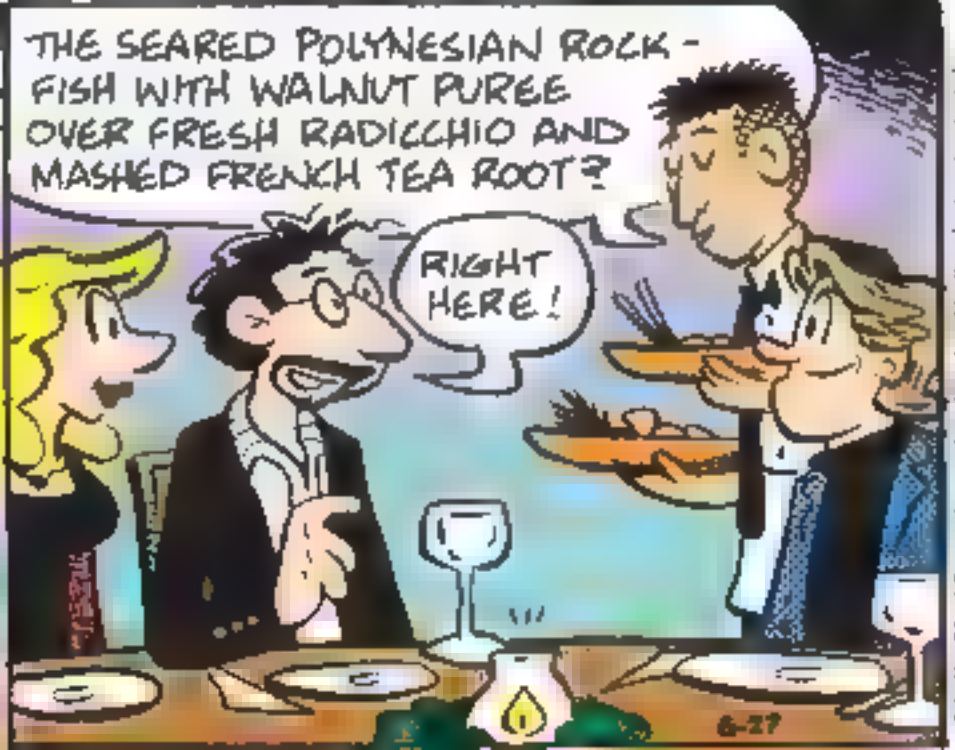
SPLASH!
AGH! HELLO?


I NEVER CAN WORK AT THE POOL.
YOU JUST HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO FOCUS.


OOOH! YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN A NICE RESTAURANT WHEN THEY GIVE YOU HOT TOWELS!
OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.

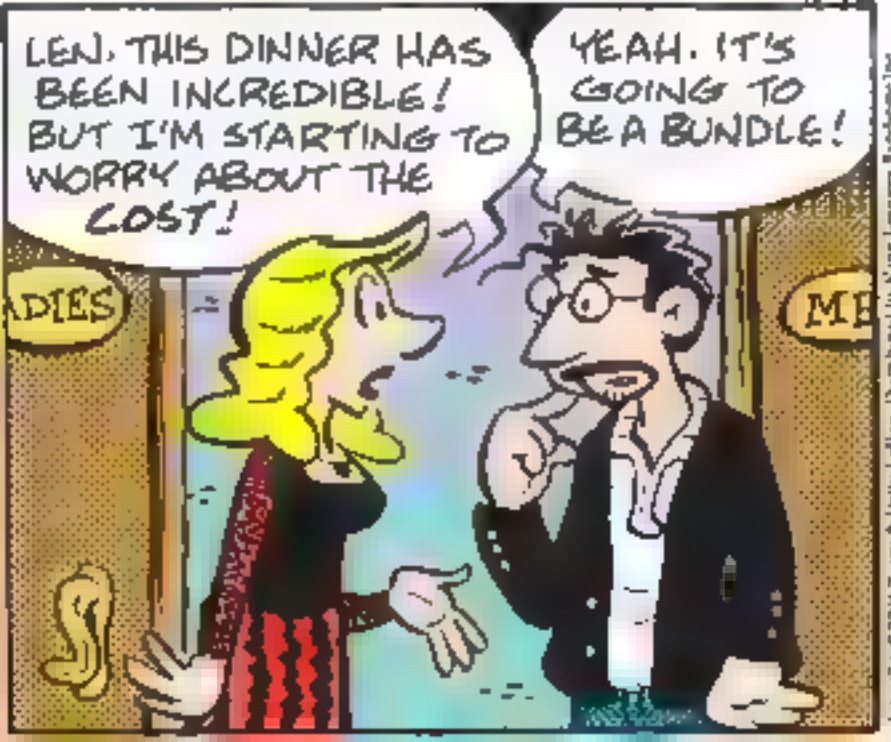
IT USED TO BE TRUE, BUT NOW YOU SEE THEM EVERYWHERE.


I THINK THIS PLACE TAKES PRE-DINNER PAMPERING TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.
A LITTLE TO THE LEFT, OK?
RUB RUB!

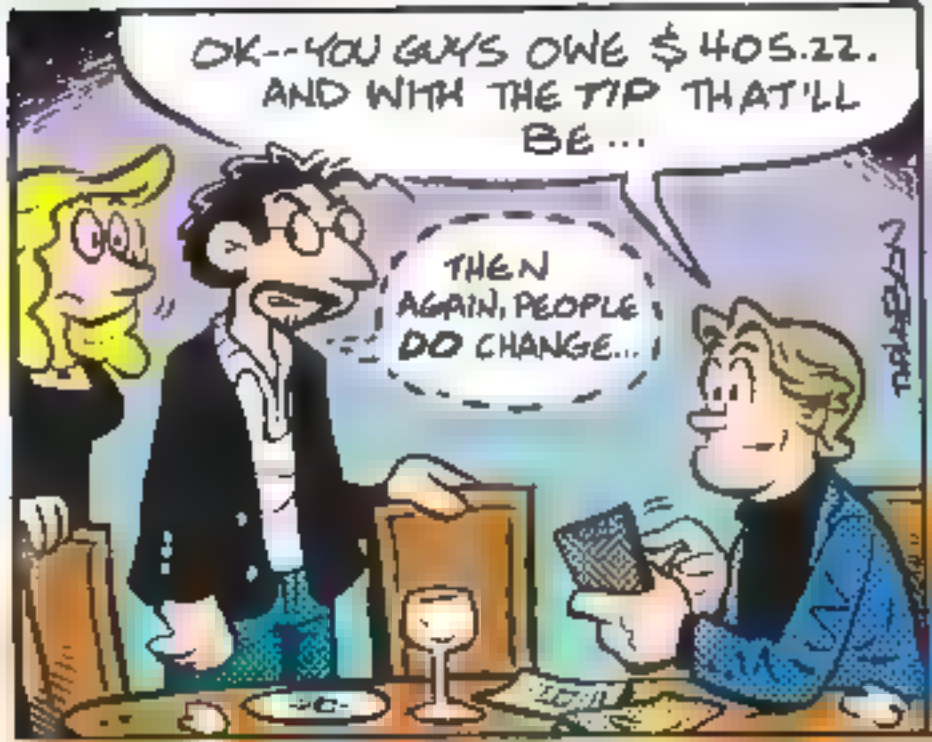

THE SEARED POLYNESIAN ROCK-FISH WITH WALNUT PUREE OVER FRESH RADICCHIO AND MASHED FRENCH TEA ROOT?
RIGHT HERE!
6-27

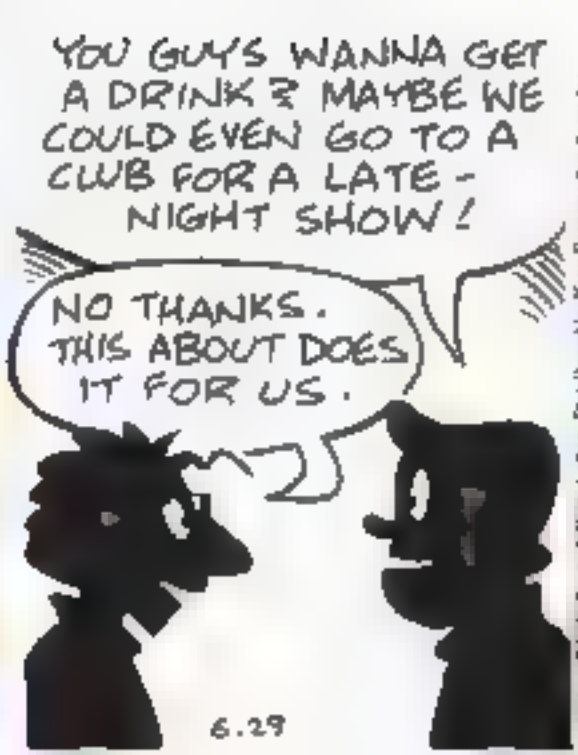
WOW! I'M TOTALLY AMAZED!

THAT IT TASTES SO GOOD?
THAT THEY CAN FIT SO MANY INGREDIENTS INTO SUCH A SMALL AMOUNT OF FOOD!


LEN, THIS DINNER HAS BEEN INCREDIBLE! BUT I'M STARTING TO WORRY ABOUT THE COST!
YEAH. IT'S GOING TO BE A BUNDLE!
ADIES
ME

BUT I HAVE A FEELING HARLEY WILL TREAT US. HE WAS VERY GENEROUS IN COLLEGE.
6.18


OK--YOU GUYS OWE $405.22. AND WITH THE TIP THAT'LL BE...
THEN AGAIN, PEOPLE DO CHANGE...

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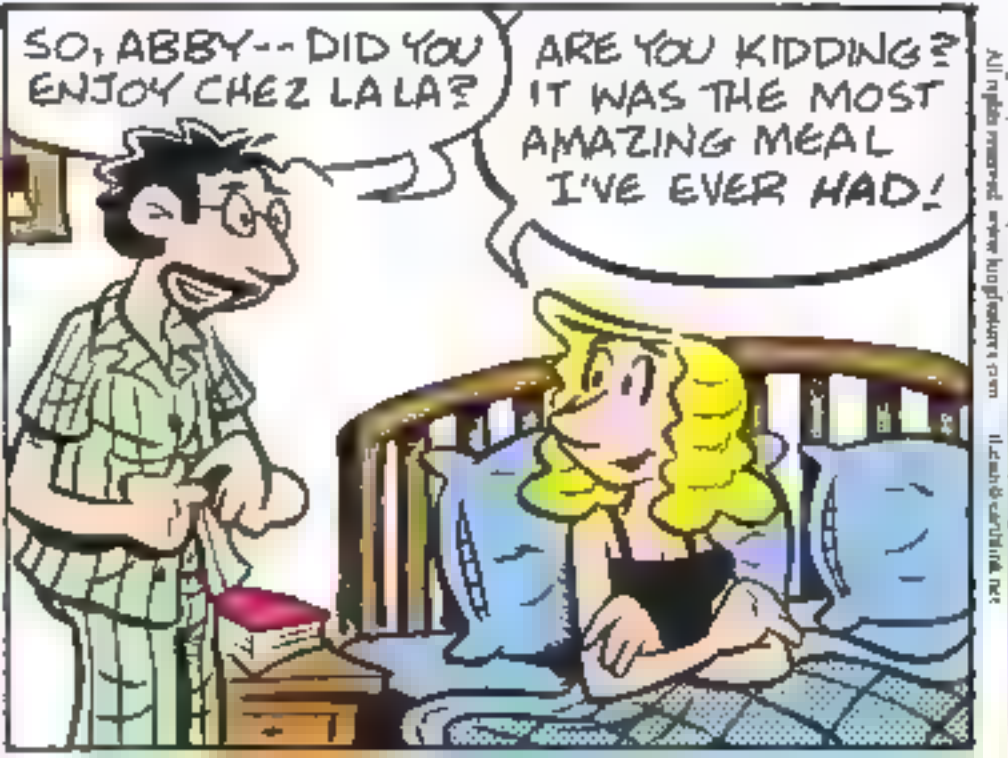


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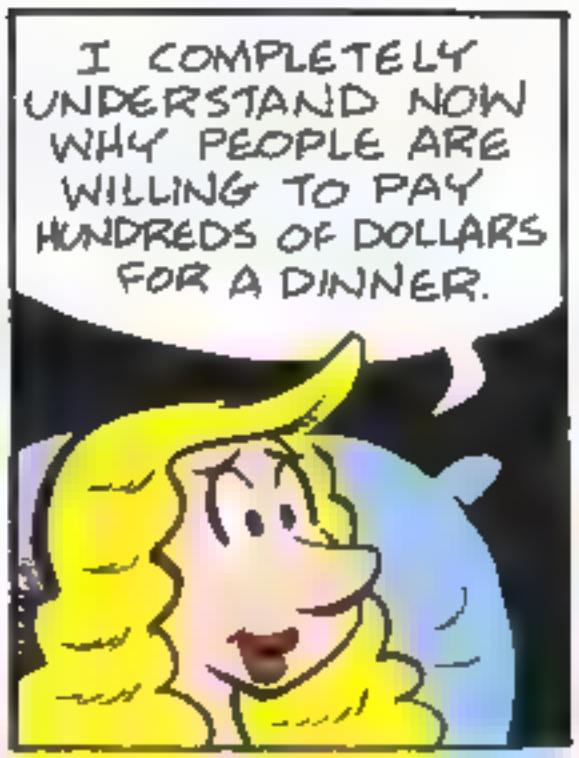


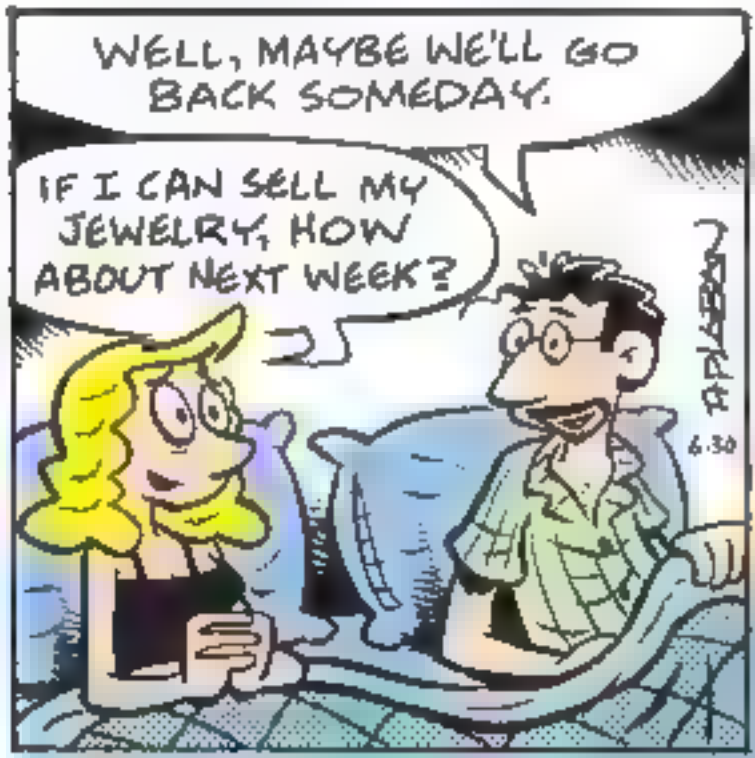

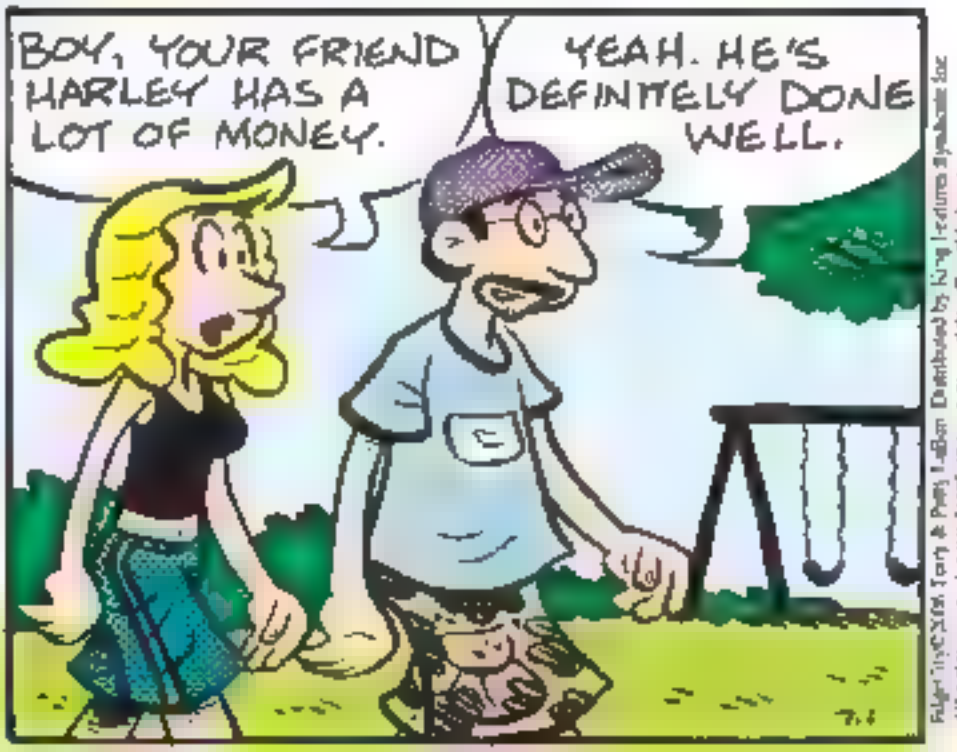


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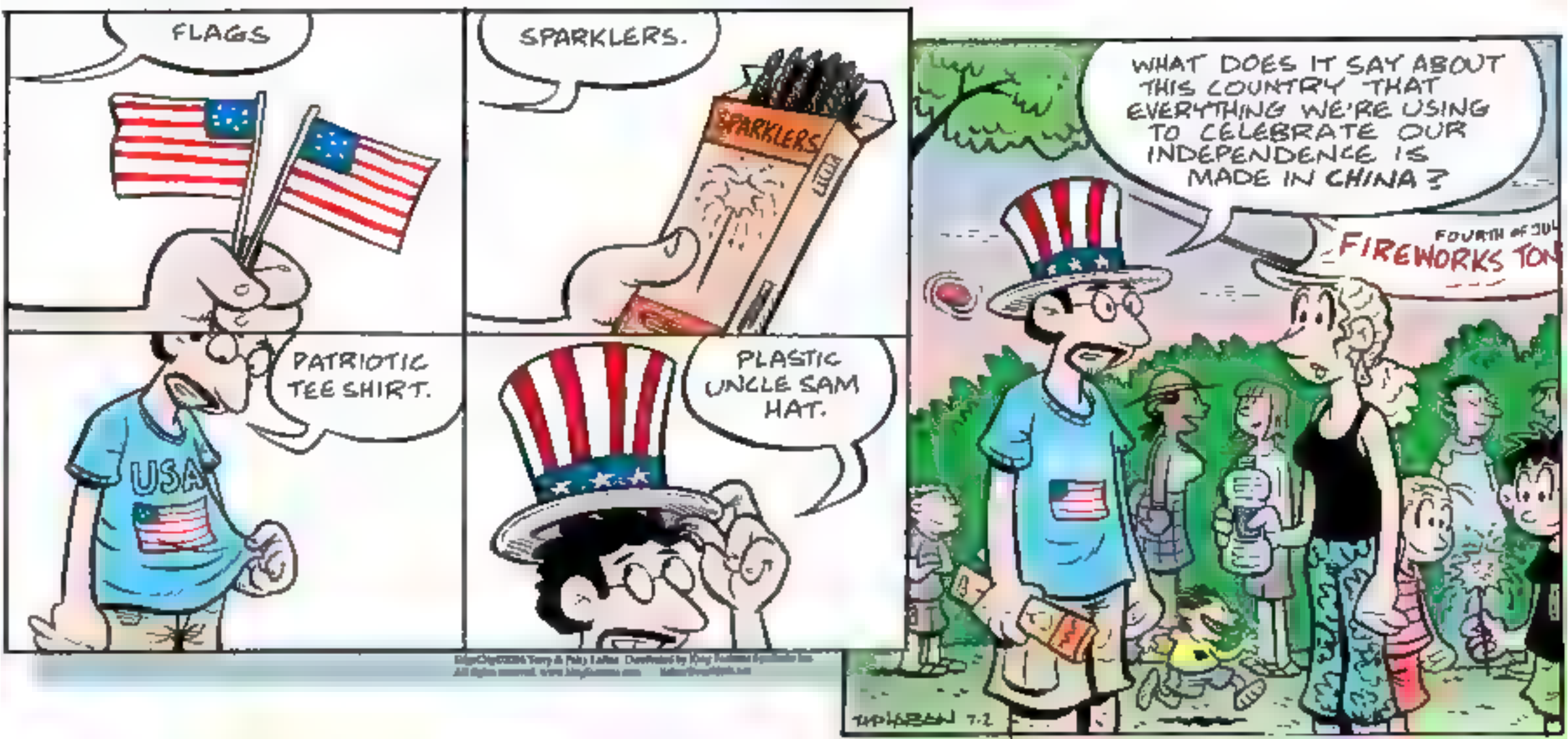
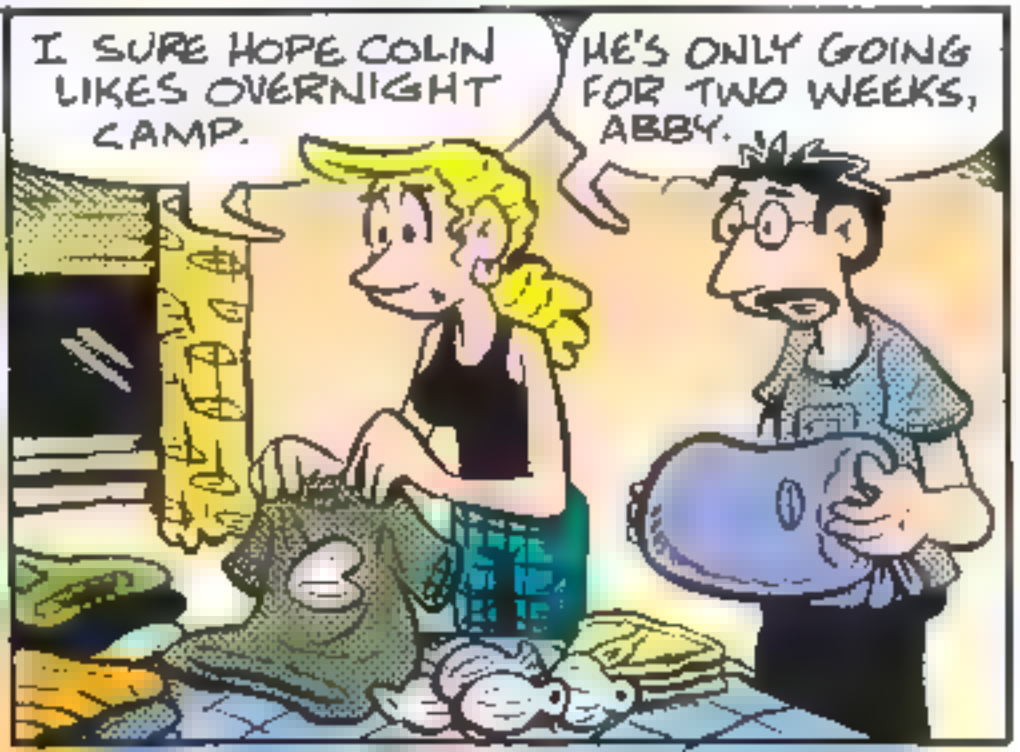
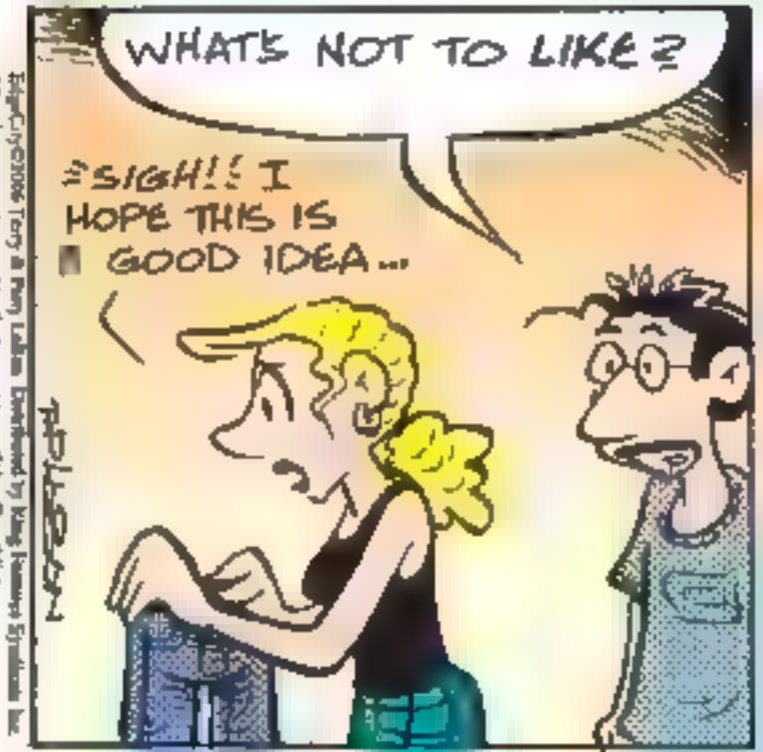
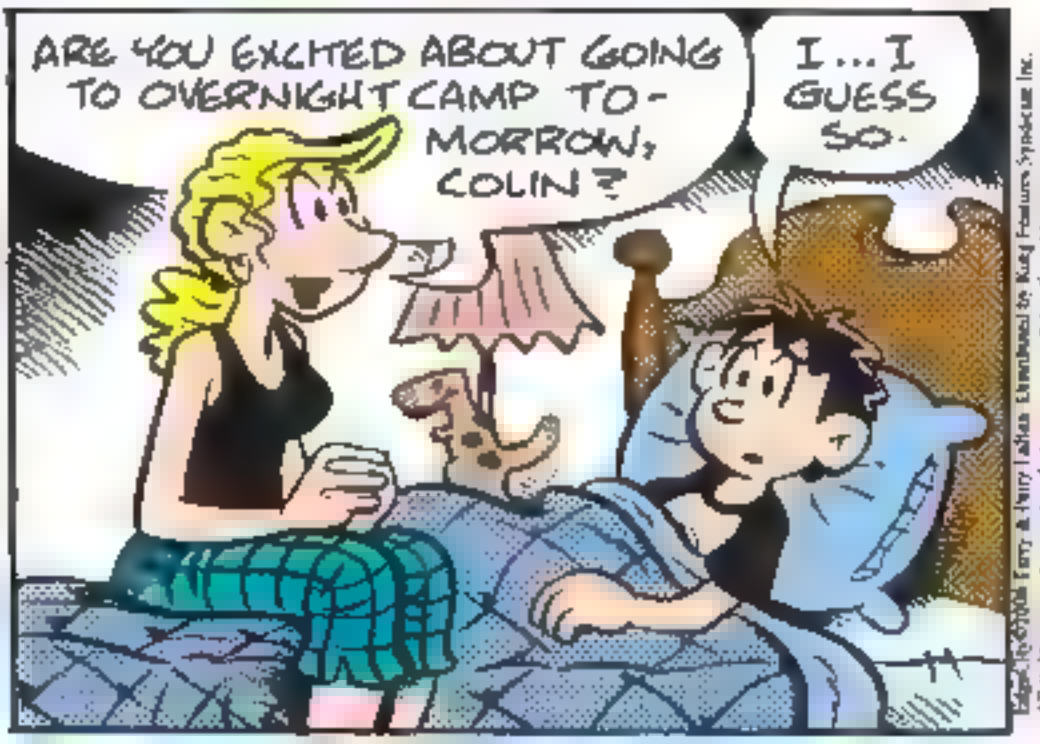
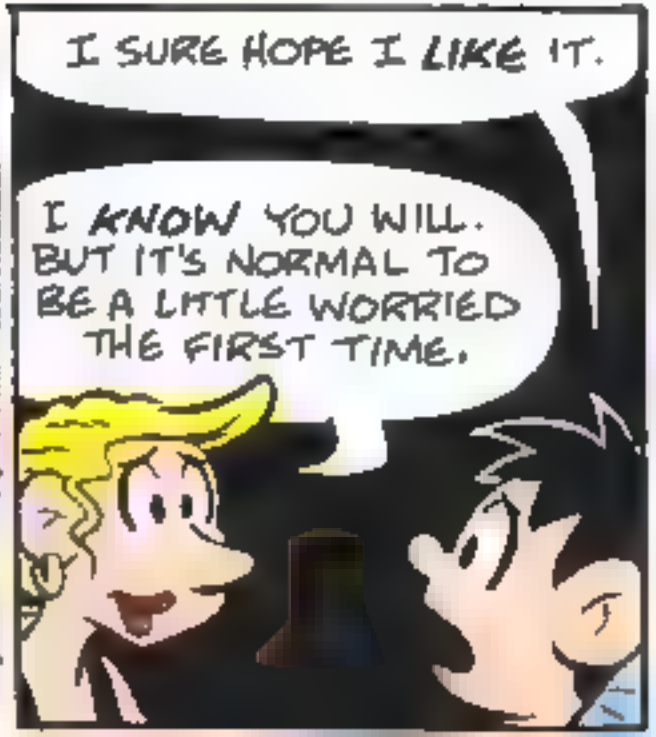

FLAGS
SPARKLERS.
SPARKLERS
PATRIOTIC TEE SHIRT.
USA
PLASTIC UNCLE SAM HAT.
WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT THIS COUNTRY THAT EVERYTHING WE'RE USING TO CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE IS MADE IN CHINA?
FOURTH OF JUL
FIREWORKS TON
7-2


I SURE HOPE COLIN LIKES OVERNIGHT CAMP.
HE'S ONLY GOING FOR TWO WEEKS, ABBY.

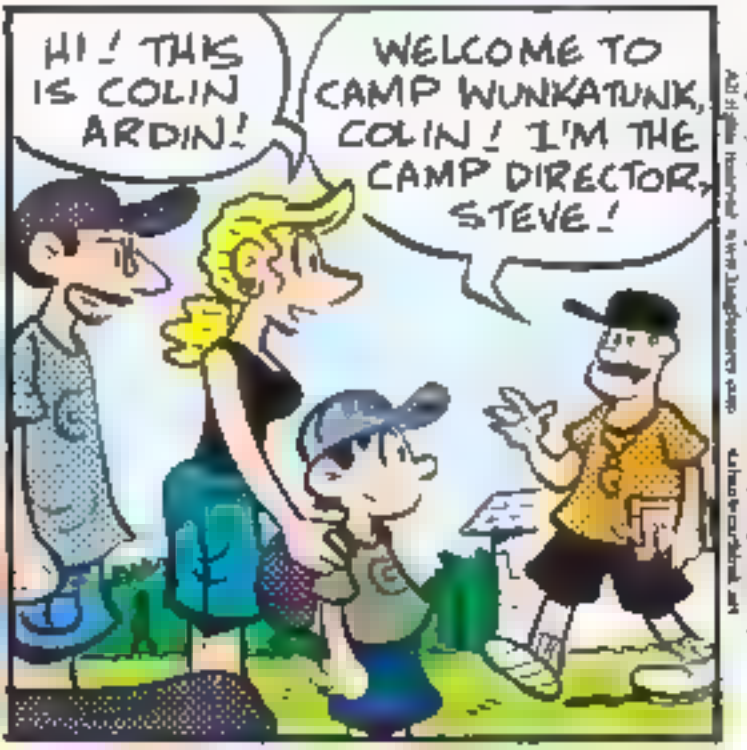
TWO WEEKS WITHOUT HIS MOM OR DAD. IN A CABIN IN THE WOODS WITH A COUPLE OF TEENAGERS AND A BUNCH OF KIDS HE'S NEVER MET!
7-3


WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?
SIGH!! I HOPE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA...


ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT GOING TO OVERNIGHT CAMP TOMORROW, COLIN?
I... I GUESS SO.


I SURE HOPE I LIKE IT.
I KNOW YOU WILL. BUT IT'S NORMAL TO BE A LITTLE WORRIED THE FIRST TIME.

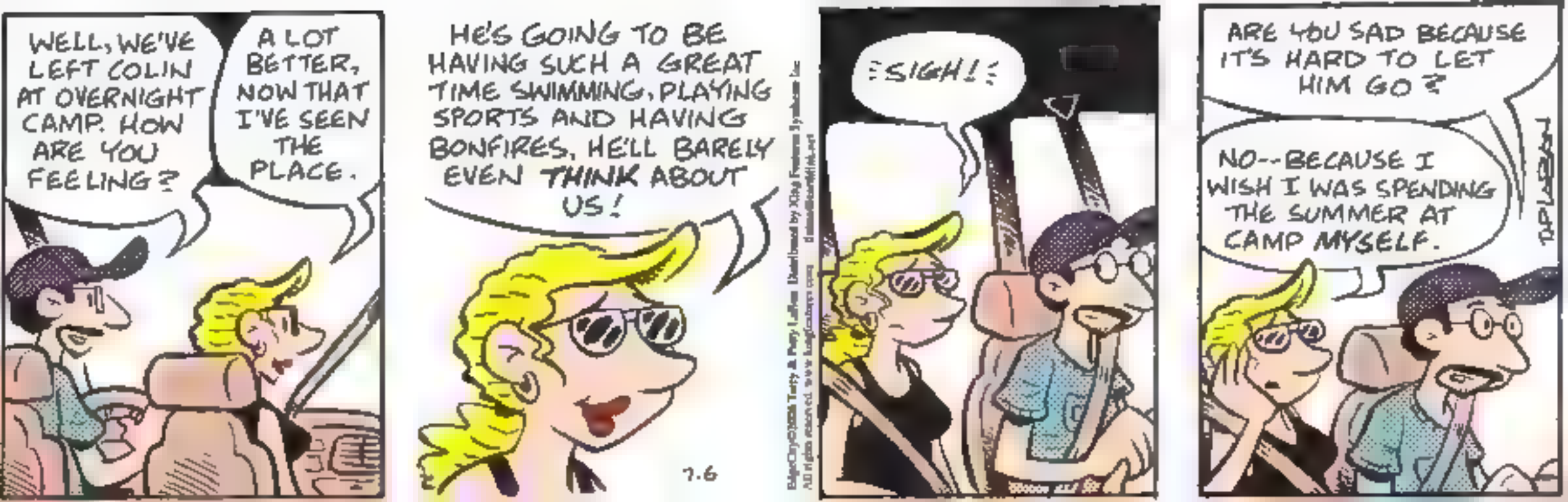
I JUST HOPE I CAN LAST TWO WEEKS WITHOUT VIDEO GAMES!
OK -- I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT...
7-4

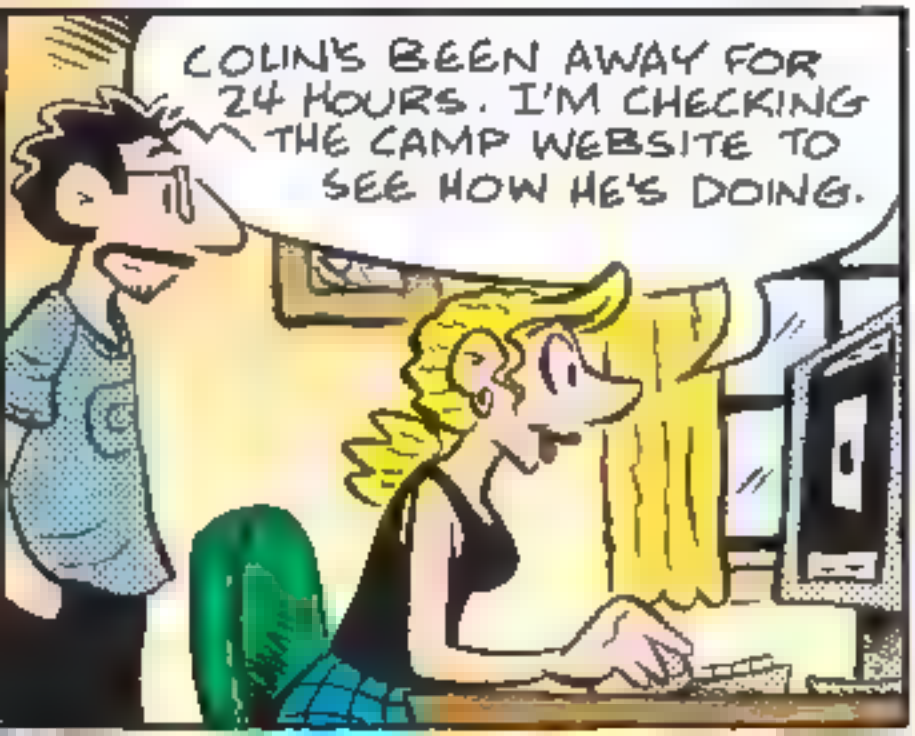

HI! THIS IS COLIN ARDIN!
WELCOME TO CAMP WUNKATUNK, COLIN! I'M THE CAMP DIRECTOR, STEVE!

YOU'RE IN BUNK 3! RIGHT OVER THERE!
HAVE FUN, SWEETY! I'LL CALL YOU!

WE DON'T ALLOW CALLS OR VISITS. THERE WILL BE PHOTOS AND UPDATES POSTED EVERY DAY ON OUR WEBSITE, THOUGH.

LEN, DID YOU BRING YOUR LAPTOP?!
I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING TILL AT LEAST TOMORROW...


WELL, WE'VE LEFT COLIN AT OVERNIGHT CAMP. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
A LOT BETTER, NOW THAT I'VE SEEN THE PLACE.
HE'S GOING TO BE HAVING SUCH A GREAT TIME SWIMMING, PLAYING SPORTS AND HAVING BONFIRES, HE'LL BARELY EVEN THINK ABOUT US!
7.6
SIGH!
ARE YOU SAD BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO LET HIM GO?
NO--BECAUSE I WISH I WAS SPENDING THE SUMMER AT CAMP MYSELF.
TOPLADAN



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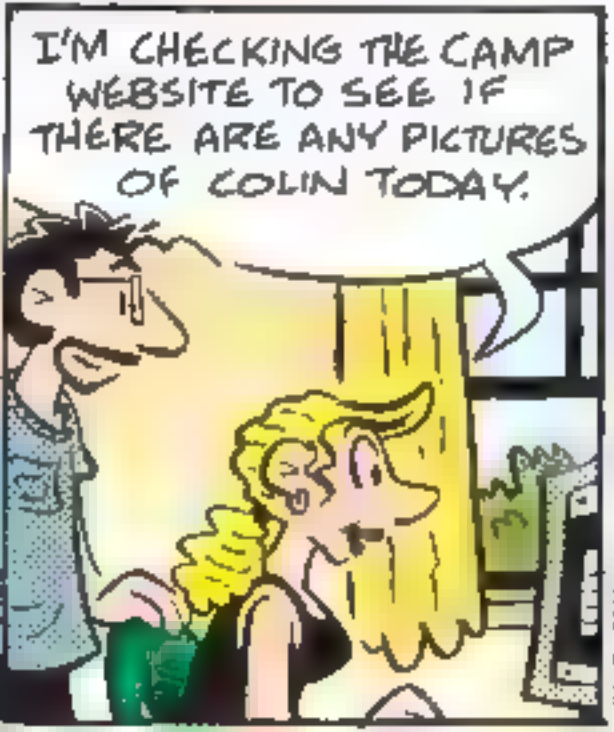


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YOUR RIDE'S HERE FOR SCIENCE CAMP, COLIN--DON'T FORGET YOUR BACKPACK!

HONK!

'KAY.

!

SLAM!

COLIN! I JUST TOLD YOU NOT TO FORGET THIS!

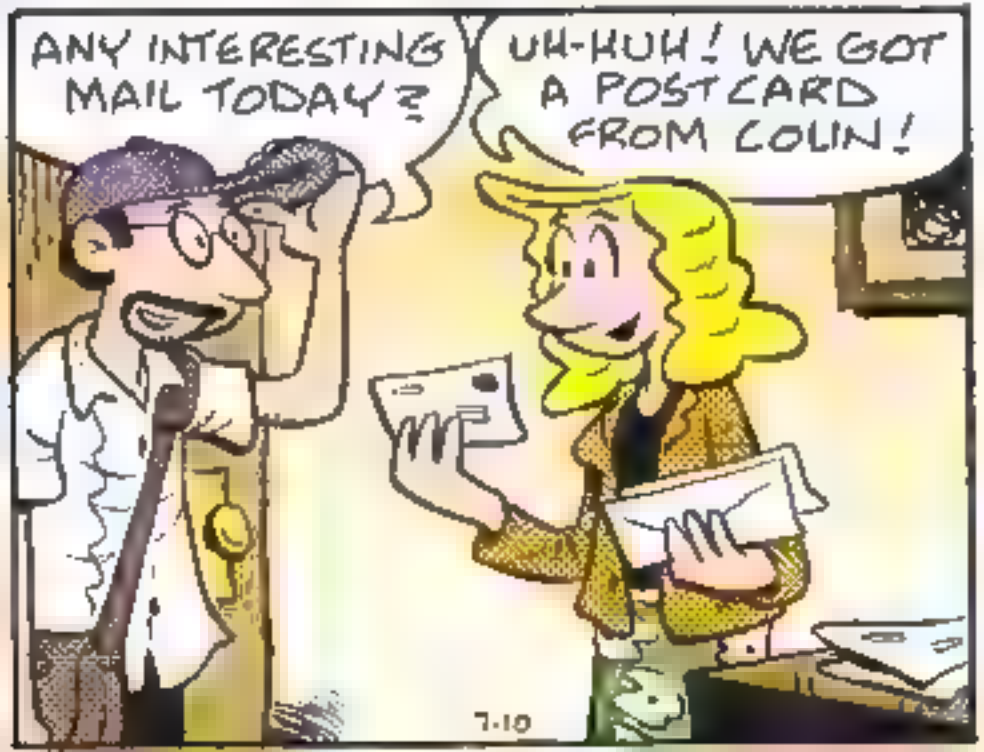
OOPS!

IT'S A GOOD THING I CHECKED! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP BEING SO ABSENT-MINDED!

VOOM!

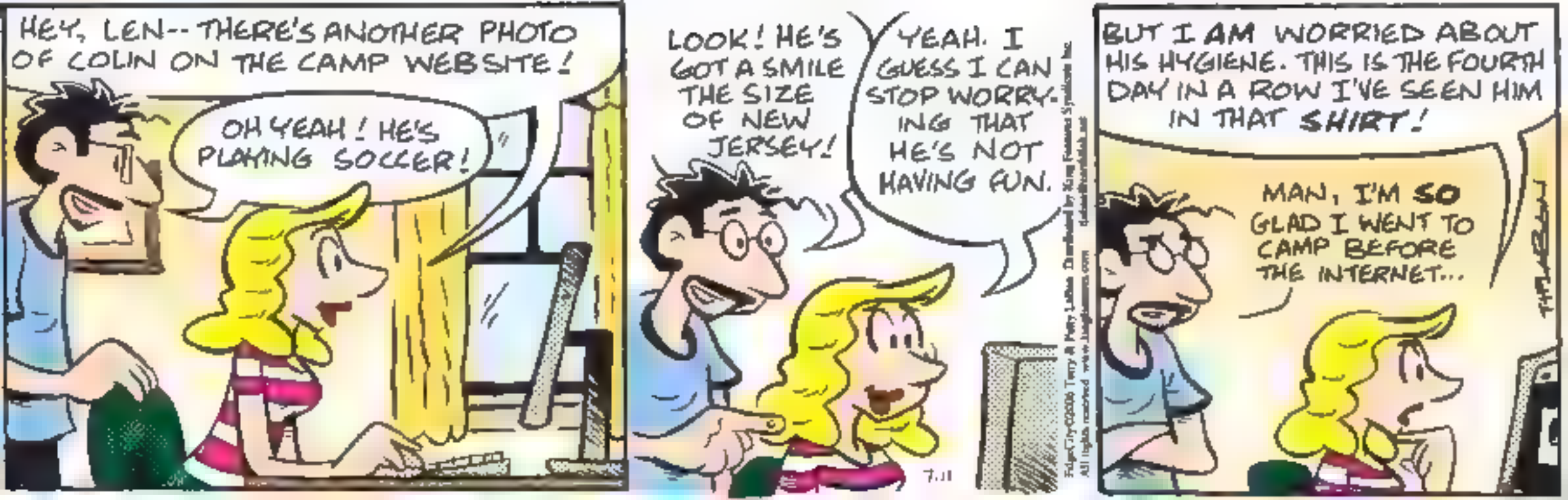
OH NO! I LOCKED MY KEYS INSIDE!

IT'S A GOOD THING I WASN'T IN A MEETING, ABBY! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP BEING SO ABSENT-MINDED!


ANY INTERESTING MAIL TODAY?
UH-HUH! WE GOT A POSTCARD FROM COLIN!
7-10

"DEAR MOM AND DAD, CAMP IS FUN. LOVE, COLIN"
ONE SENTENCE, HUH? I'M SURPRISED!

THAT THEY LET HIM GET AWAY WITH WRITING SO LITTLE?
NO -- THAT THEY GOT HIM TO WRITE AT ALL.
TGLABAN


HEY, LEN-- THERE'S ANOTHER PHOTO OF COLIN ON THE CAMP WEBSITE!
OH YEAH! HE'S PLAYING SOCCER!
LOOK! HE'S GOT A SMILE THE SIZE OF NEW JERSEY!
YEAH. I GUESS I CAN STOP WORRYING THAT HE'S NOT HAVING FUN.
BUT I AM WORRIED ABOUT HIS HYGIENE. THIS IS THE FOURTH DAY IN A ROW I'VE SEEN HIM IN THAT SHIRT!
MAN, I'M SO GLAD I WENT TO CAMP BEFORE THE INTERNET...

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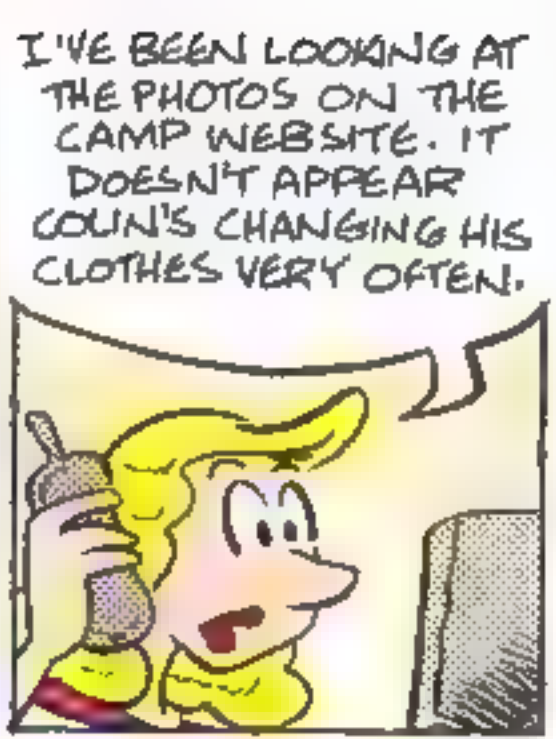
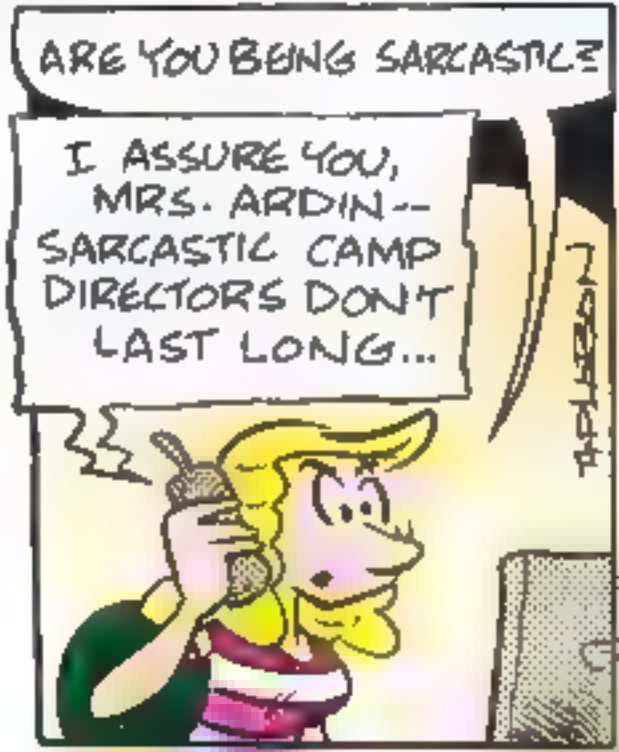


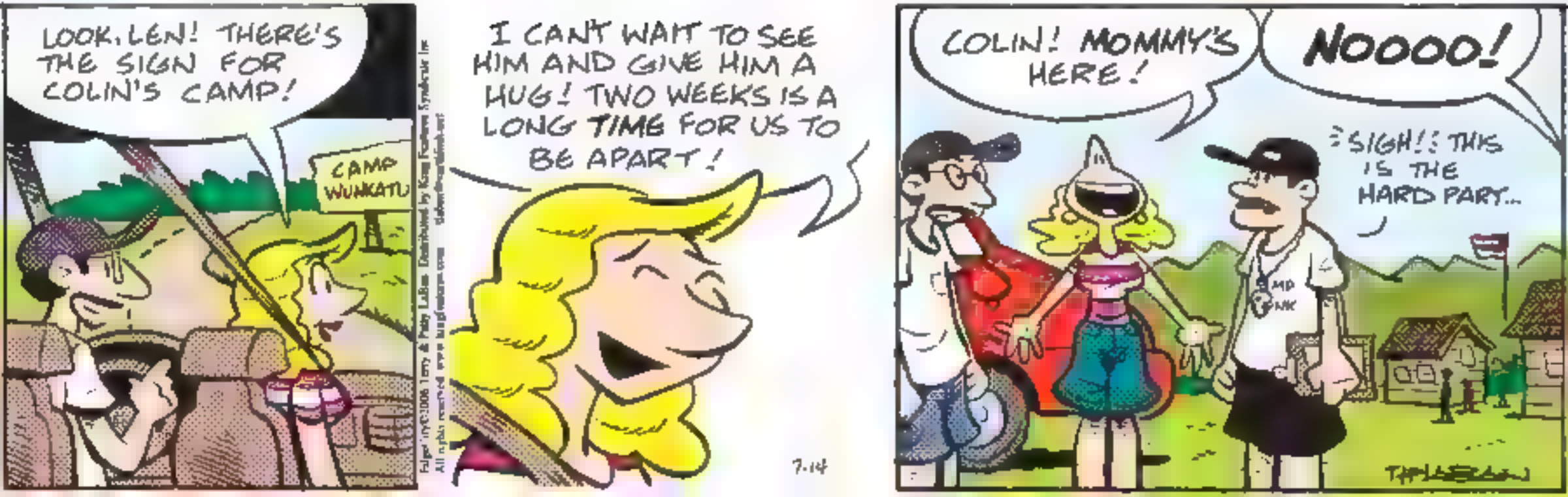


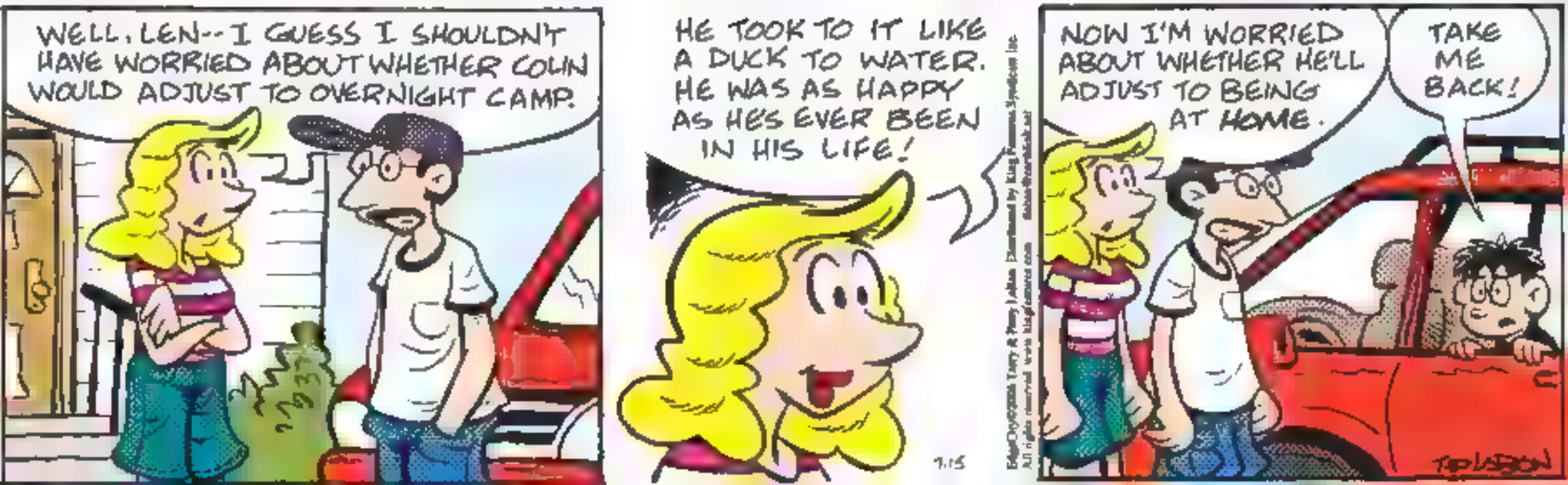
HELLO, CAMP DIRECTOR? THIS IS ABBY, COLIN ARDIN'S MOM.

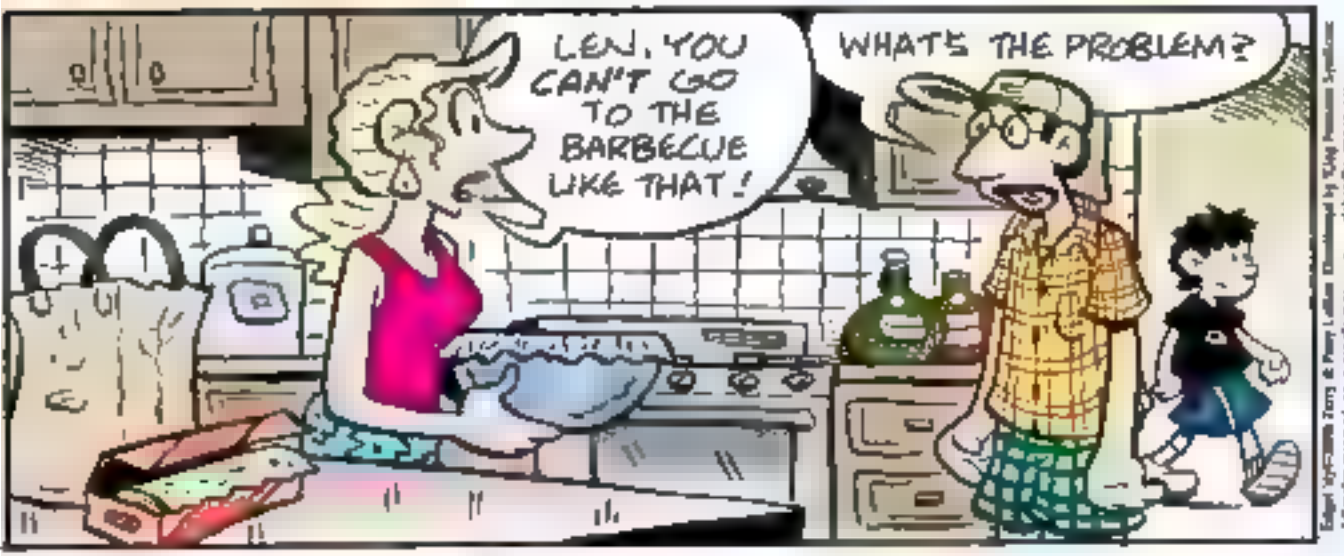
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU TODAY, MRS. ARDIN?
IN THE LATEST PHOTO OF COLIN POSTED ON THE CAMP WEBSITE, IT LOOKS LIKE HE HAS A SCAB!
7-13

HMM... I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT ANY MISHAPS. BUT WE'LL CERTAINLY LOOK INTO IT.

THE CAMP FAXED YOU A THREE-PAGE MEDICAL REPORT ABOUT COLIN'S SKINNED KNEE?
I GOTTA HAND IT TO THEM— THEY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE OVER-INVOLVED MOMS!


LOOK, LEN! THERE'S THE SIGN FOR COLIN'S CAMP!
CAMP WUNKATU
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HIM AND GIVE HIM A HUG! TWO WEEKS IS A LONG TIME FOR US TO BE APART!
7-14
COLIN! MOMMY'S HERE!
NOOOO!
SIGH!! THIS IS THE HARD PART...


WELL, LEN--I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER COLIN WOULD ADJUST TO OVERNIGHT CAMP.
HE TOOK TO IT LIKE A DUCK TO WATER. HE WAS AS HAPPY AS HE'S EVER BEEN IN HIS LIFE!
7.15
NOW I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER HE'LL ADJUST TO BEING AT HOME.
TAKE ME BACK!

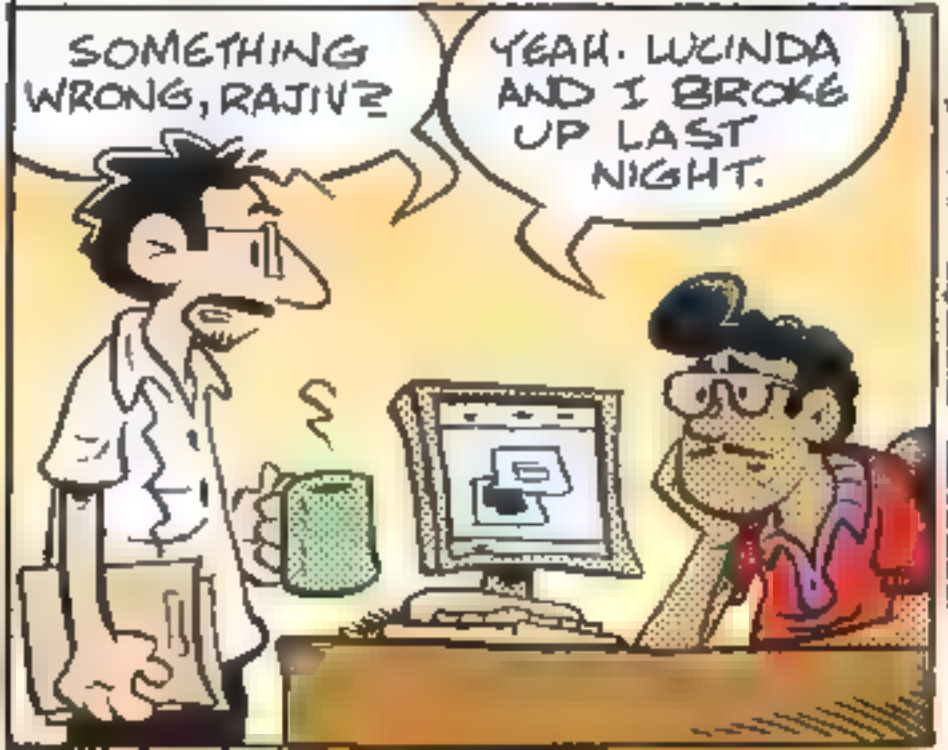

LEN, YOU CAN'T GO TO THE BARBECUE LIKE THAT!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

HASN'T ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU NOT TO WEAR A PLAID SHIRT WITH PLAID SHORTS?
AW, I THINK IT LOOKS ALL RIGHT.

JUST TRUST ME ON THIS.
WELL, I WANT TO WEAR MY NEW SHORTS, AND MY NON-PLAID SHIRTS ARE ALL IN THE WASH!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST WEAR A T-SHIRT?
SIGH!... IF THAT WOULD MEET WITH YOUR APPROVAL, THEN FINE.

OK-LET'S GO.
BIKINI INSPECTOR

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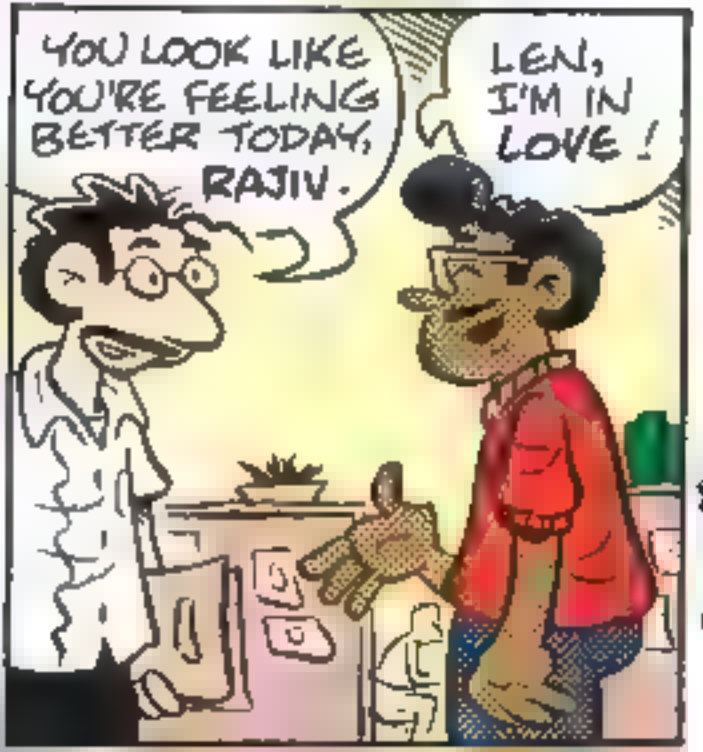
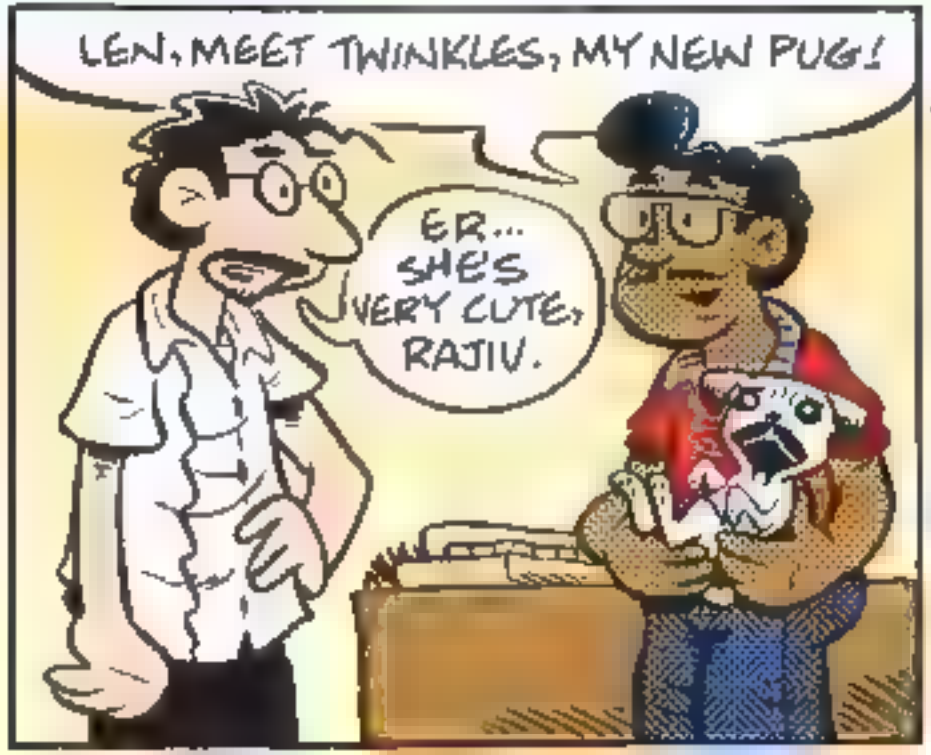
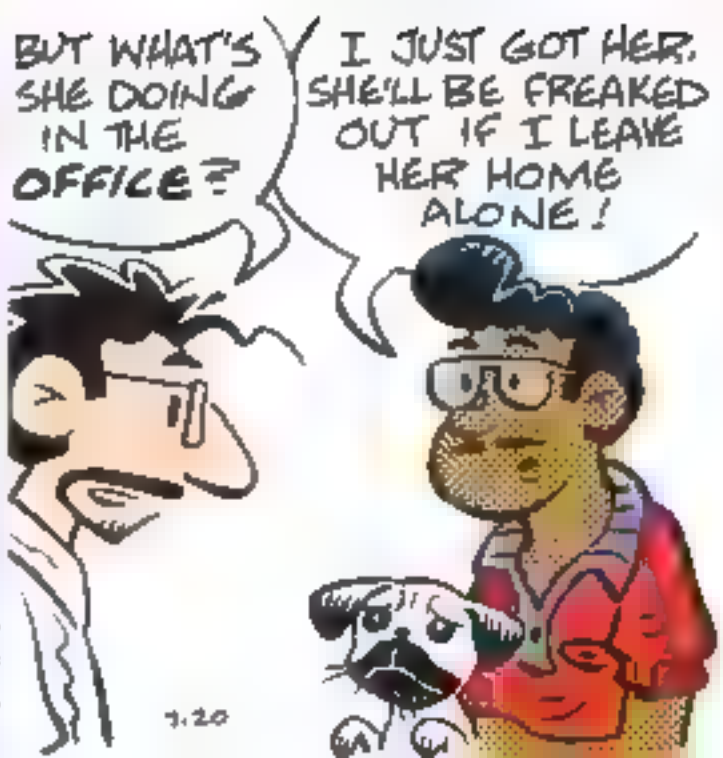

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER TODAY, RAJIV.
LEN, I'M IN LOVE!

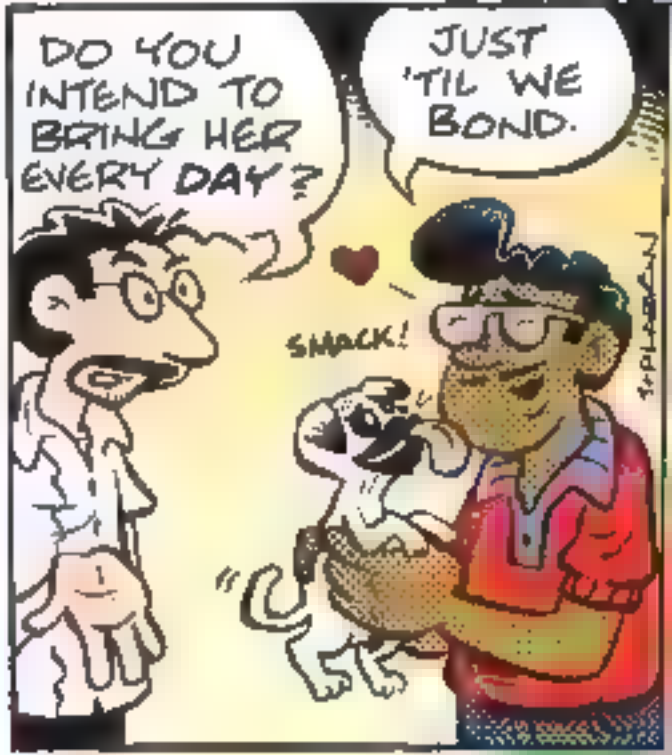
YOU FOUND SOMEONE NEW ALREADY? THAT WAS FAST!
YEAH. BUT IT'S THE REAL THING THIS TIME! I KNOW IT!
7.19

SHE'S IN MY OFFICE RIGHT NOW! WANT TO MEET HER?
SHE CAME TO WORK WITH YOU? OH, MAN-- THIS IS SERIOUS!

RAJIV, THAT'S A DOG!
SHE'S NOT JUST A DOG! SHE'S TWINKLES!

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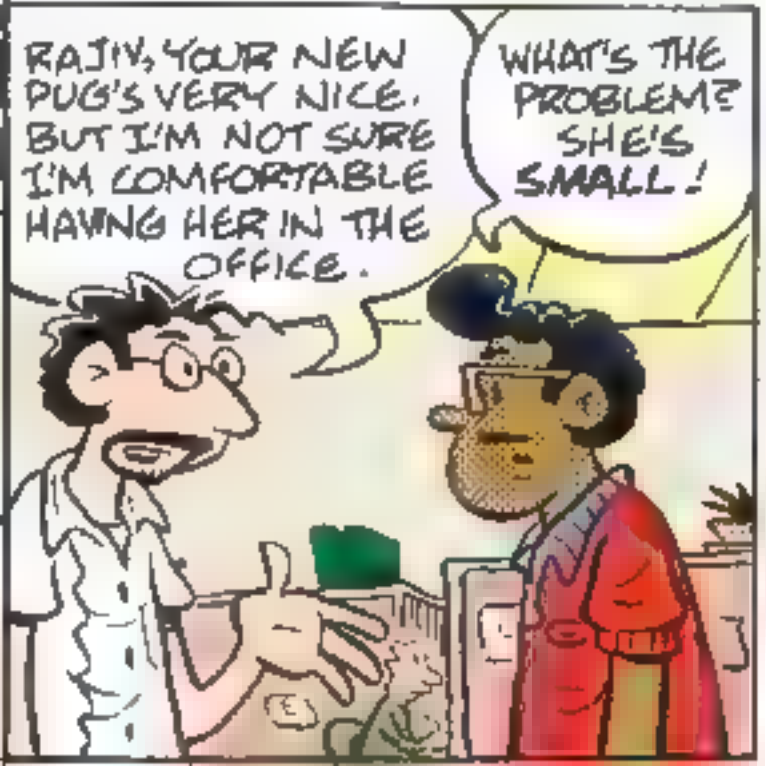


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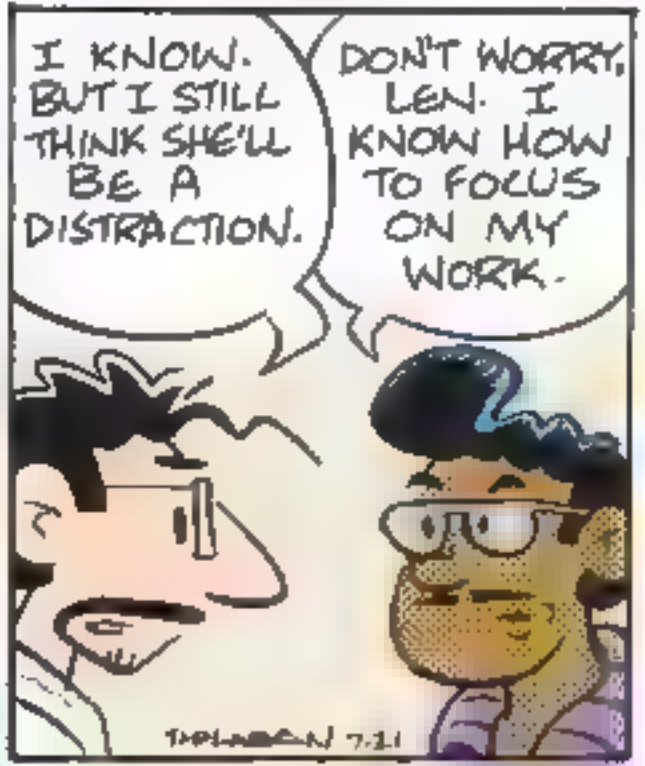
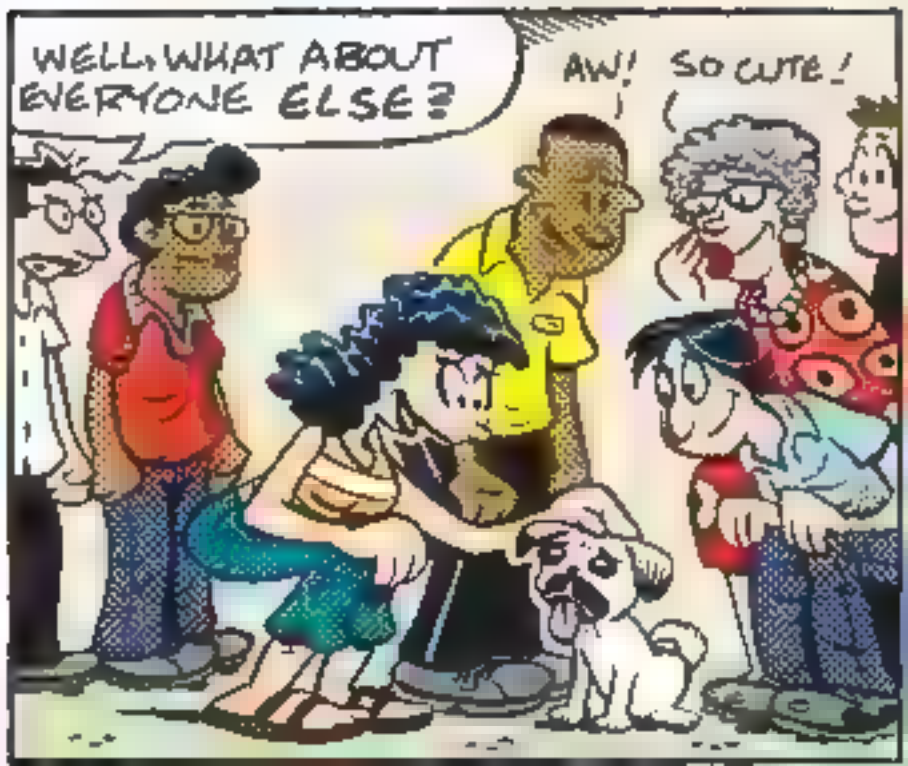
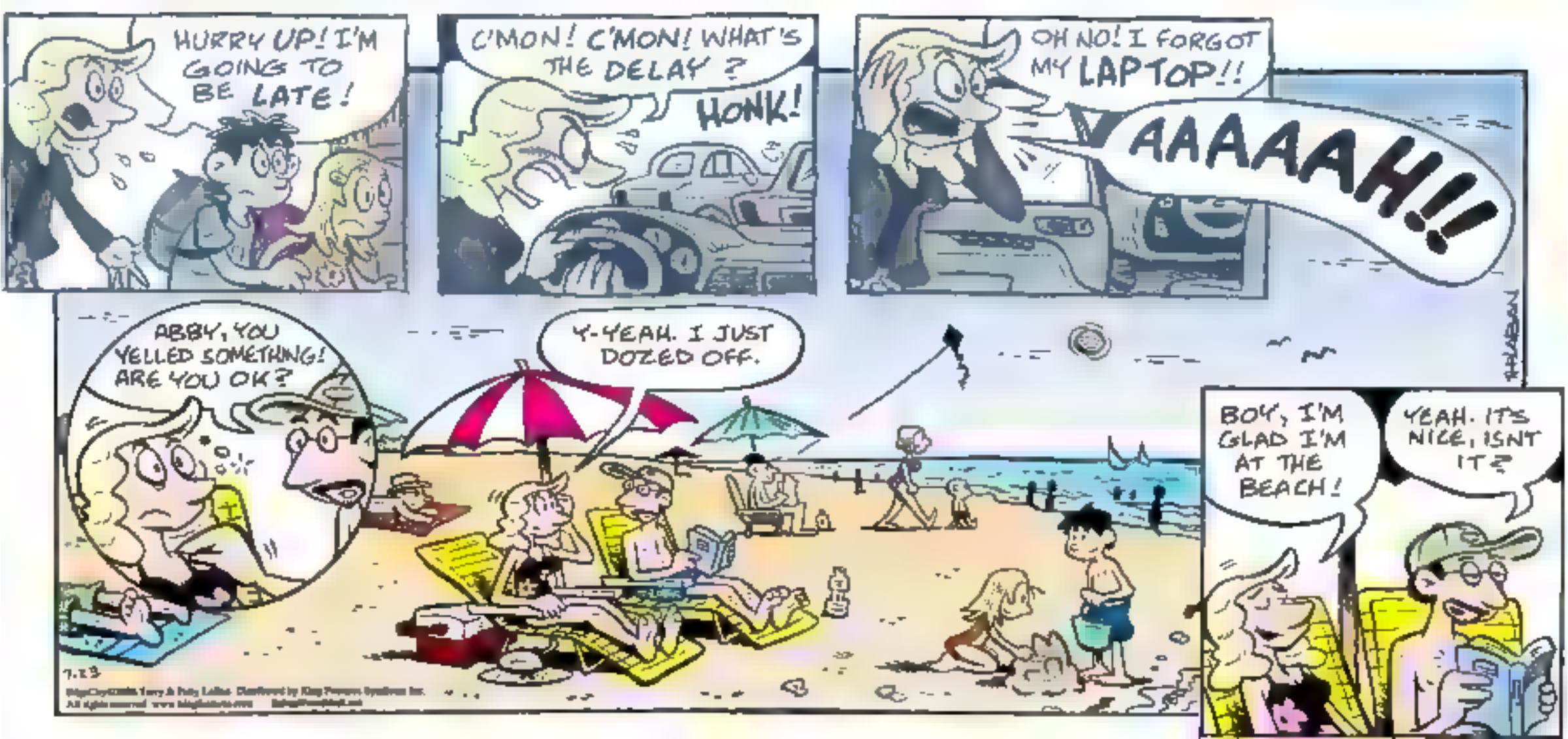
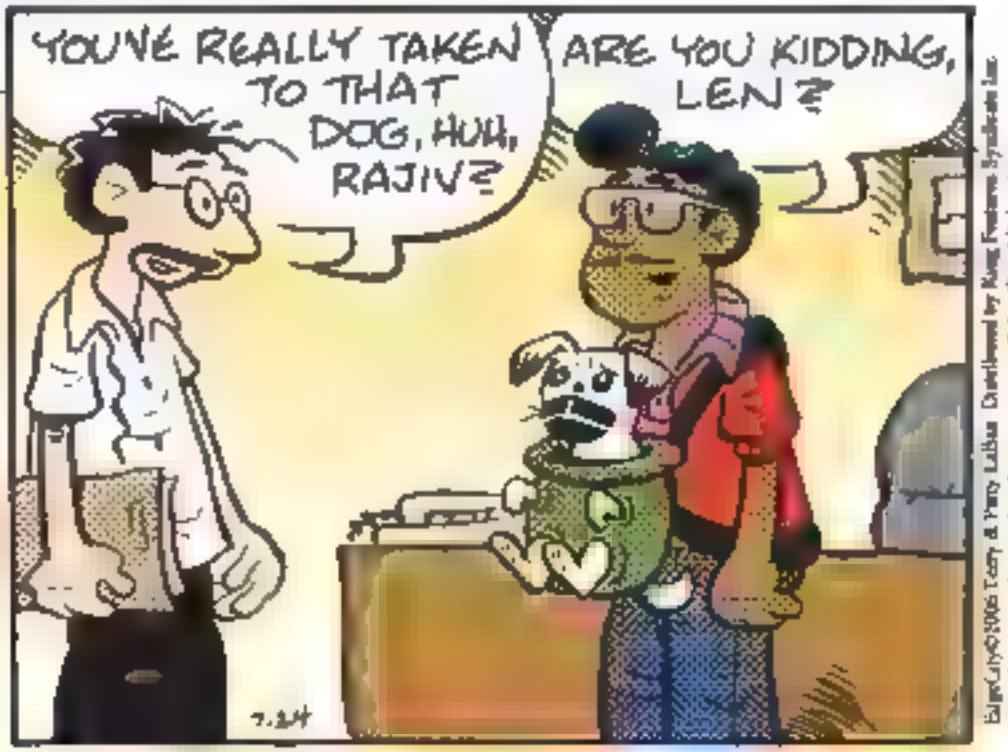


YOUR DOG IS WEARING CLOTHES, RAJIV.
ISN'T SHE CUTE? THAT'S A COOL THING ABOUT PUGS--THEY ACTUALLY LIKE TO WEAR COSTUMES.
I GOTTA SAY--YOU NEVER SEEMED LIKE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D ENJOY PUTTING A DOG IN A FRILLY DRESS.
HEH! I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
THAT'S WHY I GOT HER BIKER AND COWBOY OUTFITS AS WELL!
WOOF!


HURRY UP! I'M GOING TO BE LATE!
C'MON! C'MON! WHAT'S THE DELAY?
HONK!
OH NO! I FORGOT MY LAPTOP!!
AAAAAH!!
ABBY, YOU YELLED SOMETHING! ARE YOU OK?
Y-YEAH. I JUST DOZED OFF.
BOY, I'M GLAD I'M AT THE BEACH!
YEAH. ITS NICE, ISNT IT?

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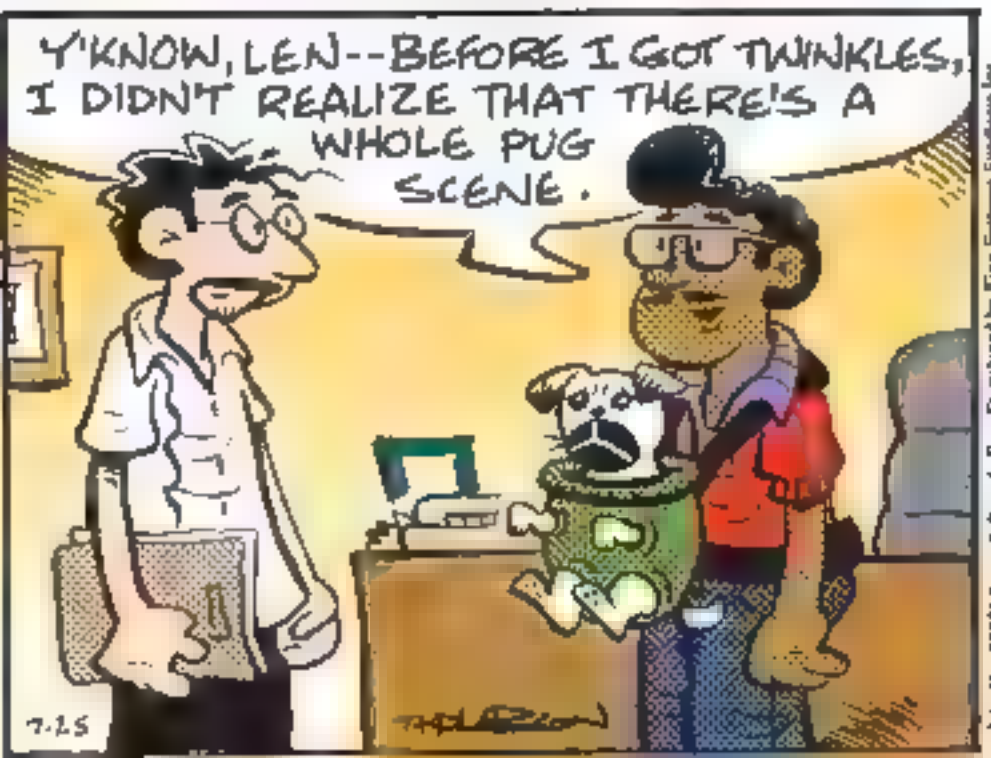
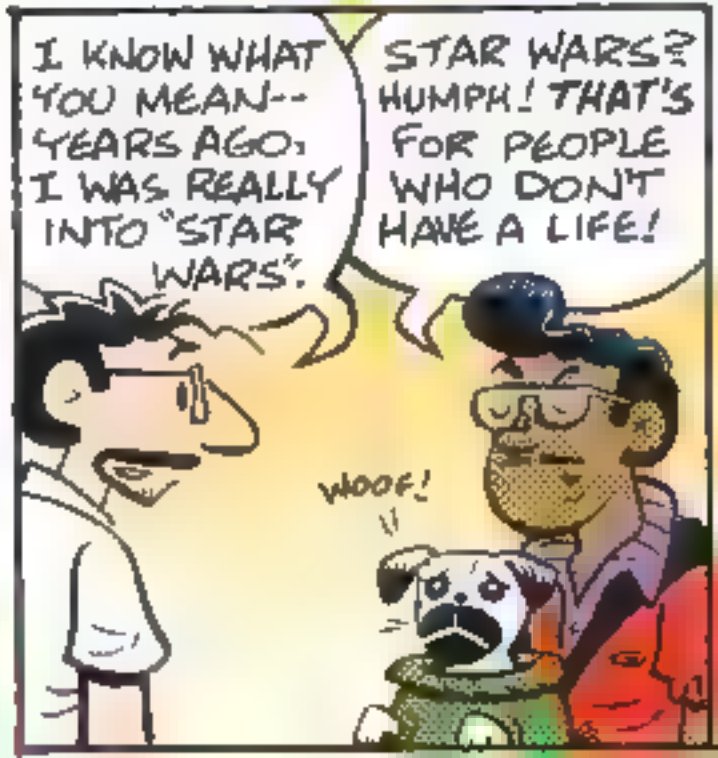
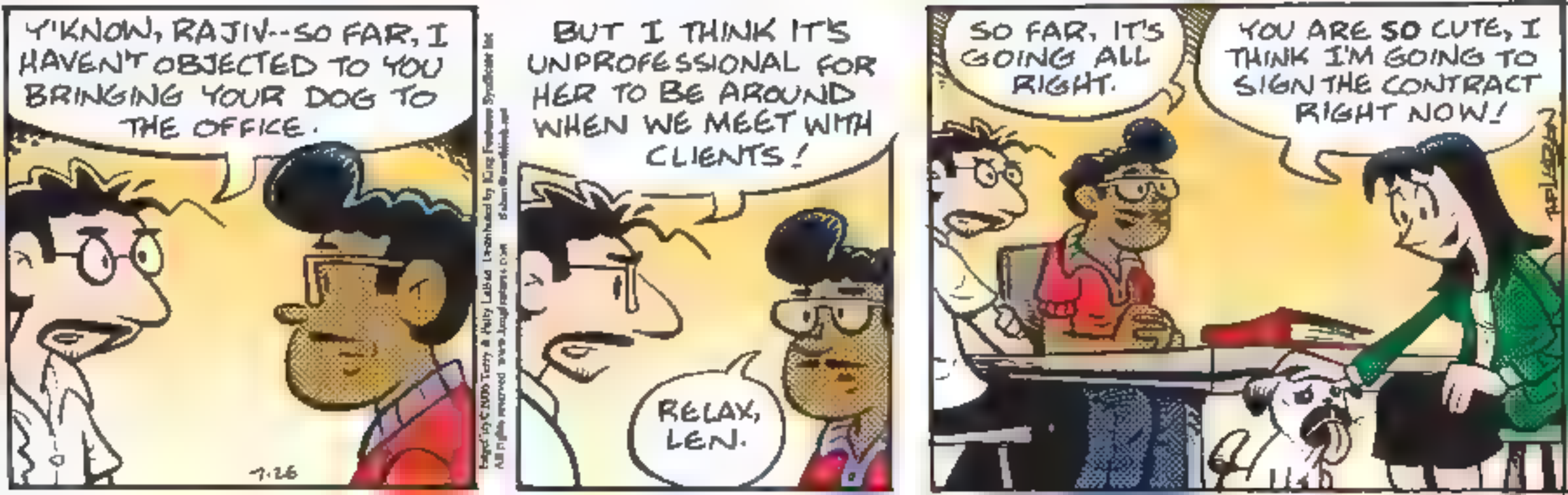
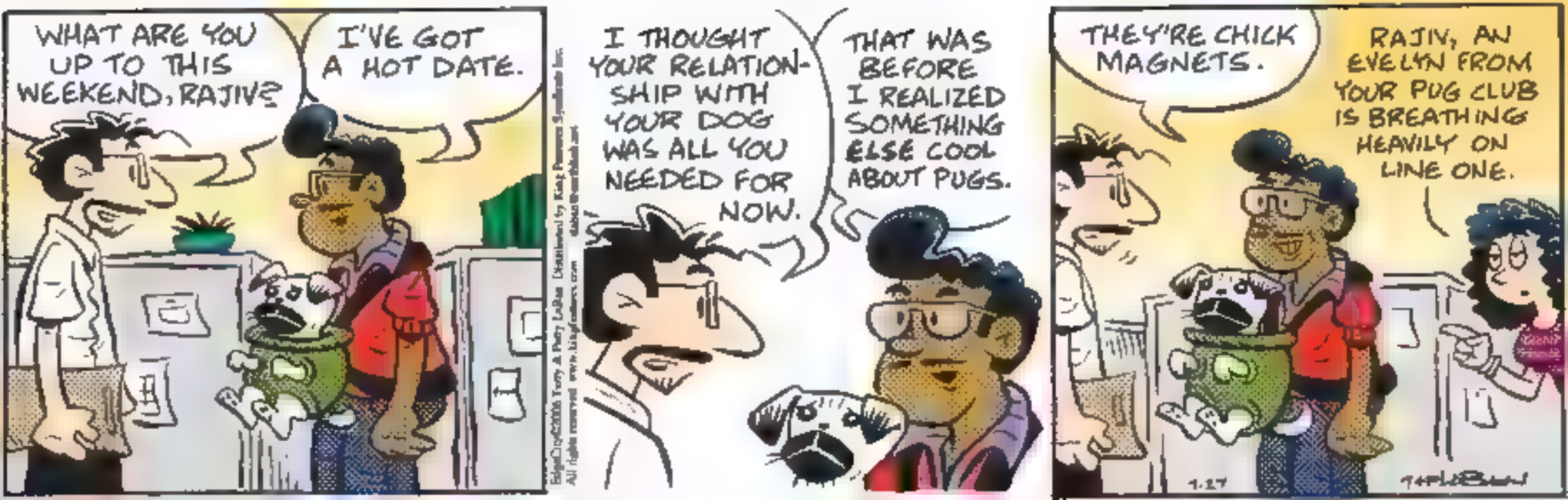
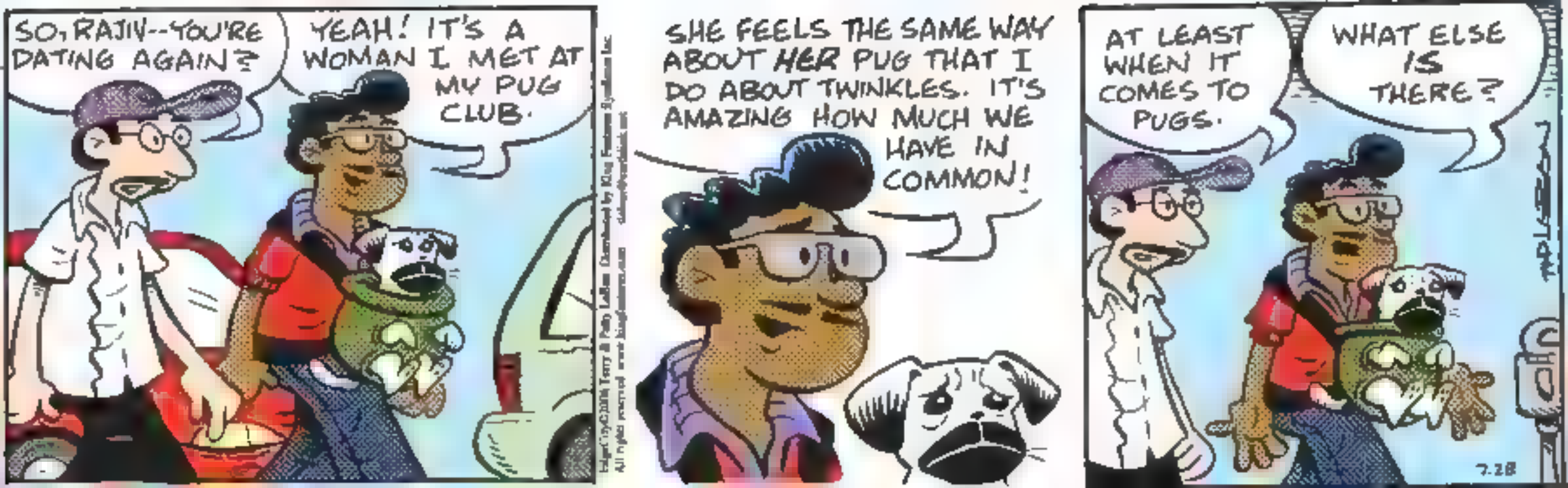

Y'KNOW, LEN--BEFORE I GOT TWINKLES, I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT THERE'S A WHOLE PUG SCENE.
7-25

YOU CAN BUY PUG PRODUCTS AND JOIN PUG CLUBS. YOU CAN GO TO PUG CONVENTIONS AND PUG SHOWS.


I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN-- YEARS AGO, I WAS REALLY INTO "STAR WARS".
STAR WARS? HUMPH! THAT'S FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE A LIFE!
WOOF!

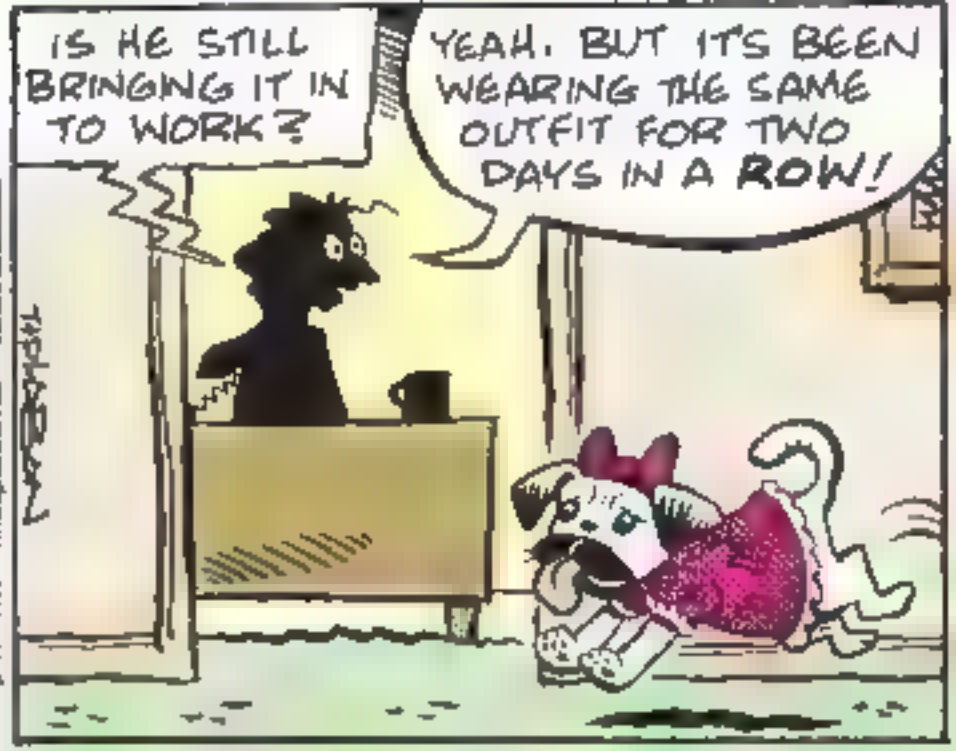

Y'KNOW, RAJIV--SO FAR, I HAVEN'T OBJECTED TO YOU BRINGING YOUR DOG TO THE OFFICE.
7-26
BUT I THINK IT'S UNPROFESSIONAL FOR HER TO BE AROUND WHEN WE MEET WITH CLIENTS!
RELAX, LEN.
SO FAR, IT'S GOING ALL RIGHT.
YOU ARE SO CUTE, I THINK I'M GOING TO SIGN THE CONTRACT RIGHT NOW!

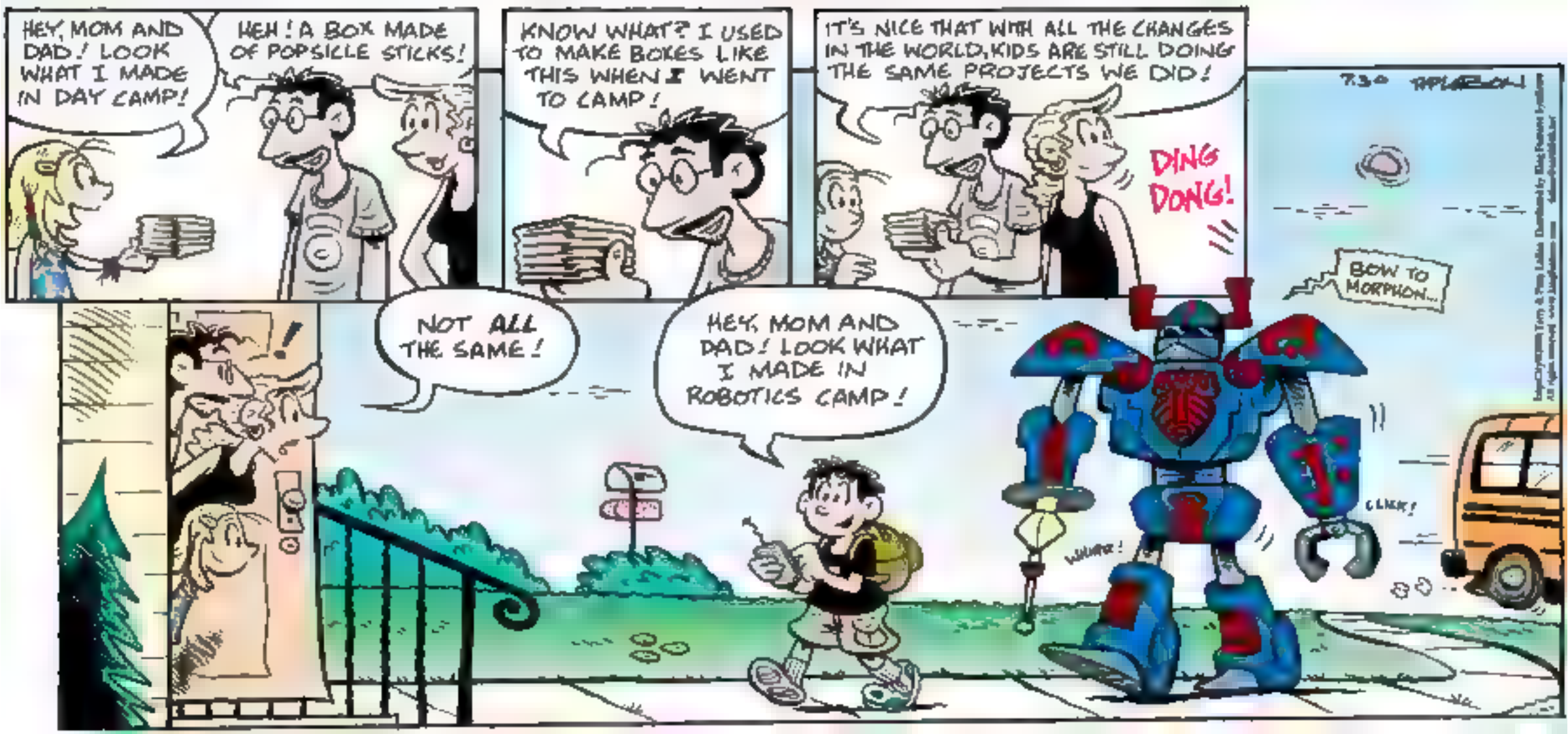

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THIS WEEKEND, RAJIV?
I'VE GOT A HOT DATE.
I THOUGHT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR DOG WAS ALL YOU NEEDED FOR NOW.
THAT WAS BEFORE I REALIZED SOMETHING ELSE COOL ABOUT PUGS.
THEY'RE CHICK MAGNETS.
RAJIV, AN EVELYN FROM YOUR PUG CLUB IS BREATHING HEAVILY ON LINE ONE.

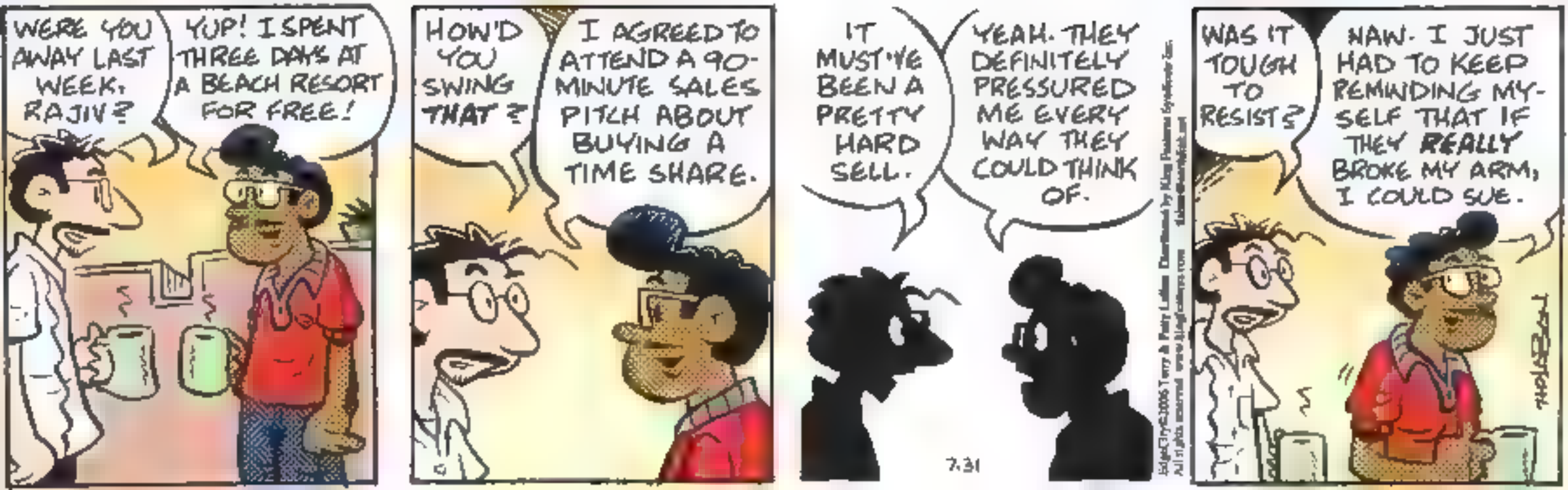

SO, RAJIV--YOU'RE DATING AGAIN?
YEAH! IT'S A WOMAN I MET AT MY PUG CLUB.
SHE FEELS THE SAME WAY ABOUT HER PUG THAT I DO ABOUT TWINKLES. IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH WE HAVE IN COMMON!
AT LEAST WHEN IT COMES TO PUGS.
WHAT ELSE IS THERE?
7.28

HI, LEN-- IT'S ABBY. HOW ARE THINGS AT THE OFFICE?
BETTER. RAJIV STARTED DATING AGAIN.

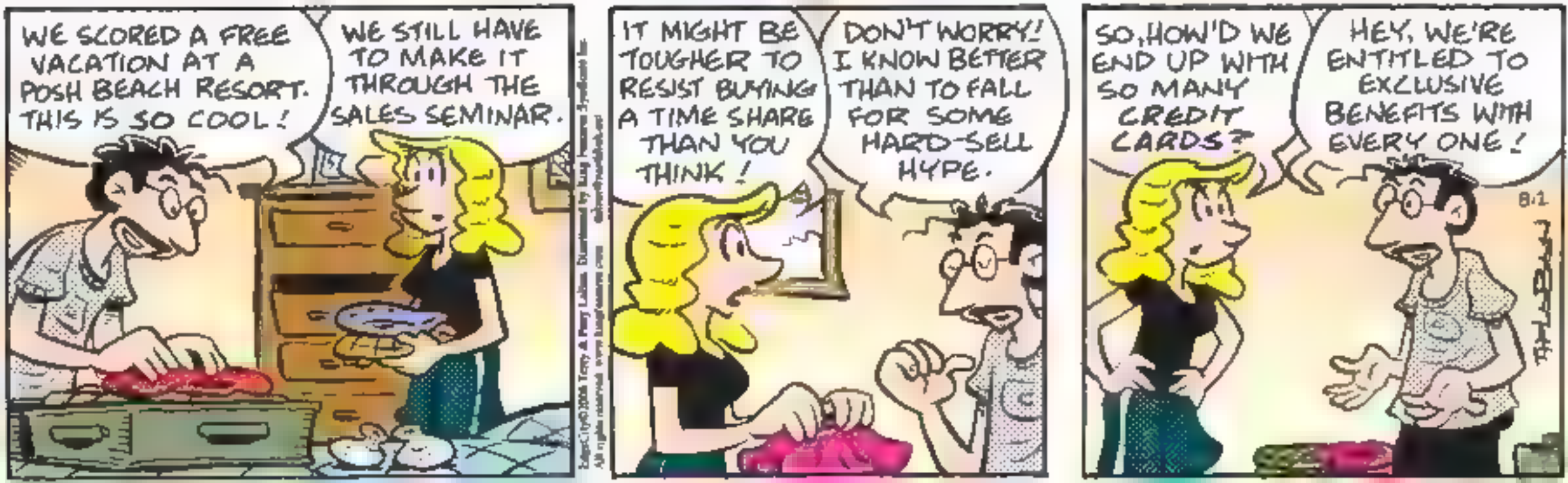
REALLY?
UH-HUH. IT'S KIND OF A RELIEF. HE'S A LOT LESS OBSESSED WITH HIS DOG.
7-24

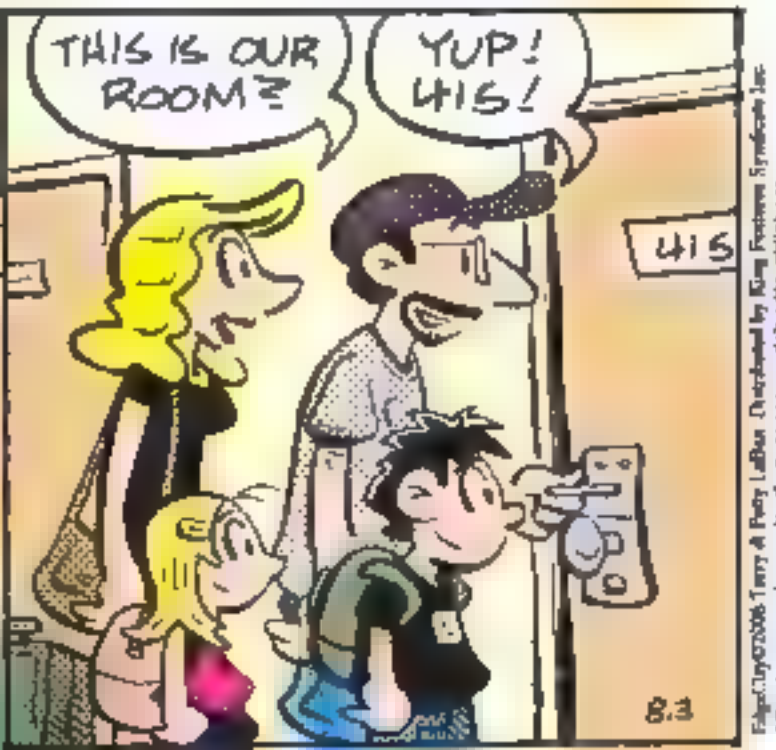

IS HE STILL BRINGING IT IN TO WORK?
YEAH. BUT IT'S BEEN WEARING THE SAME OUTFIT FOR TWO DAYS IN A ROW!


HEY, MOM AND DAD! LOOK WHAT I MADE IN DAY CAMP!
HEH! A BOX MADE OF POPSICLE STICKS!
KNOW WHAT? I USED TO MAKE BOXES LIKE THIS WHEN I WENT TO CAMP!
IT'S NICE THAT WITH ALL THE CHANGES IN THE WORLD, KIDS ARE STILL DOING THE SAME PROJECTS WE DID!
DING DONG!
NOT ALL THE SAME!
HEY, MOM AND DAD! LOOK WHAT I MADE IN ROBOTICS CAMP!
BOW TO MORPHON...
CLICK!


WERE YOU AWAY LAST WEEK, RAJIV?
YUP! I SPENT THREE DAYS AT A BEACH RESORT FOR FREE!
HOW'D YOU SWING THAT?
I AGREED TO ATTEND A 90-MINUTE SALES PITCH ABOUT BUYING A TIME SHARE.
IT MUST'VE BEEN A PRETTY HARD SELL.
YEAH. THEY DEFINITELY PRESSURED ME EVERY WAY THEY COULD THINK OF.
7-31
WAS IT TOUGH TO RESIST?
NAW. I JUST HAD TO KEEP REMINDING MYSELF THAT IF THEY REALLY BROKE MY ARM, I COULD SUE.

HEY, ABBY! RAJIV TOLD ME HOW WE CAN GET 3 DAYS AT A RESORT FOR FREE!
OH YEAH?
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN TO A 90-MINUTE SALES PITCH BY SOME REAL ESTATE COMPANY!
I'VE HEARD OF THIS. MY PARENTS DID IT ONCE.
VACATION ADVENTURES
HEH! THEY'RE NOT ONES TO PASS UP A FREE VACATION!
FREE IF YOU DON'T COUNT THE $20,000 THEY SPENT BUYING A TIME SHARE.


WE SCORED A FREE VACATION AT A POSH BEACH RESORT. THIS IS SO COOL!
WE STILL HAVE TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE SALES SEMINAR.
IT MIGHT BE TOUGHER TO RESIST BUYING A TIME SHARE THAN YOU THINK!
DON'T WORRY! I KNOW BETTER THAN TO FALL FOR SOME HARD-SELL HYPE.
SO, HOW'D WE END UP WITH SO MANY CREDIT CARDS?
HEY, WE'RE ENTITLED TO EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS WITH EVERY ONE!
8-1

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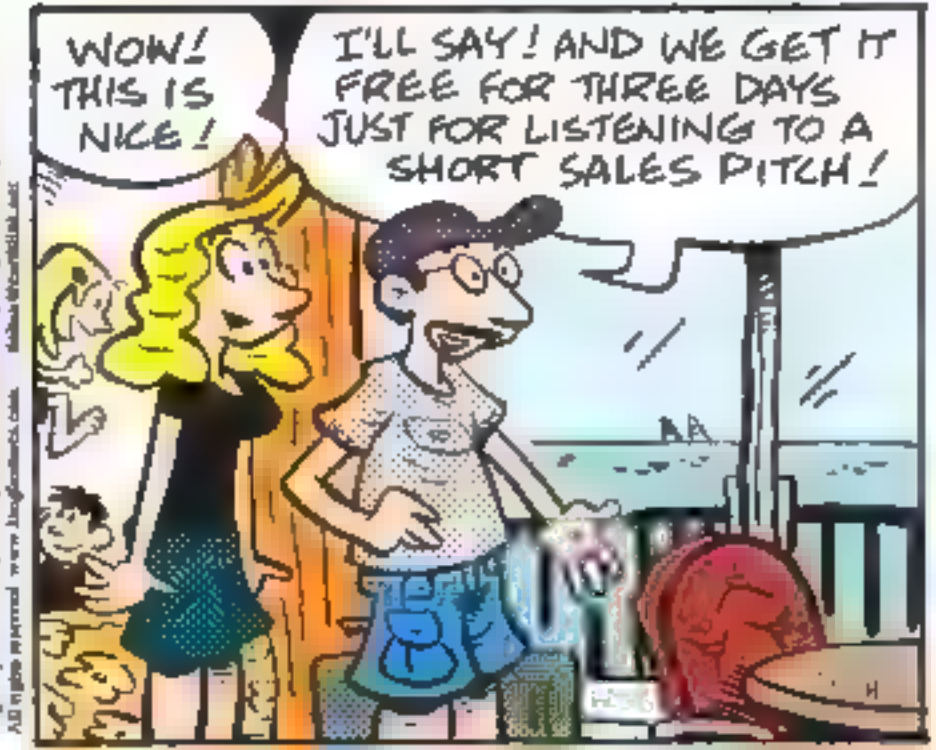
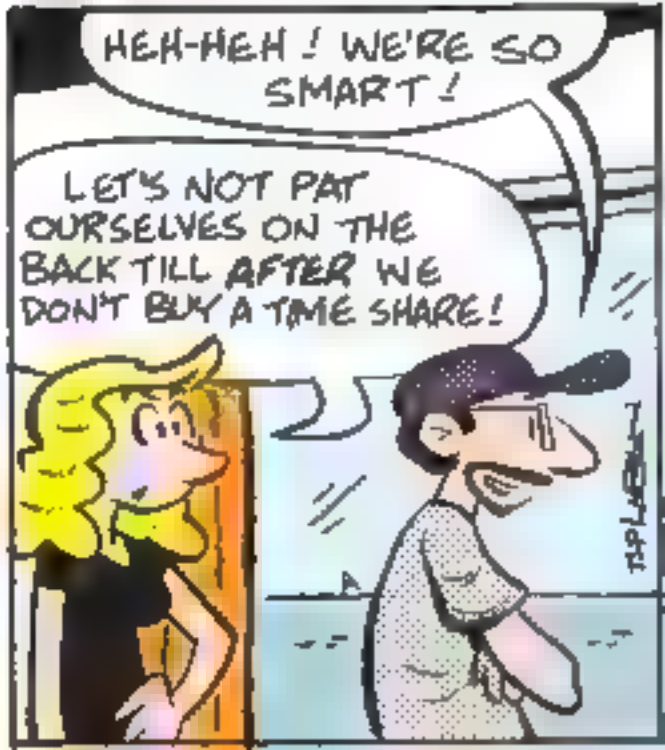
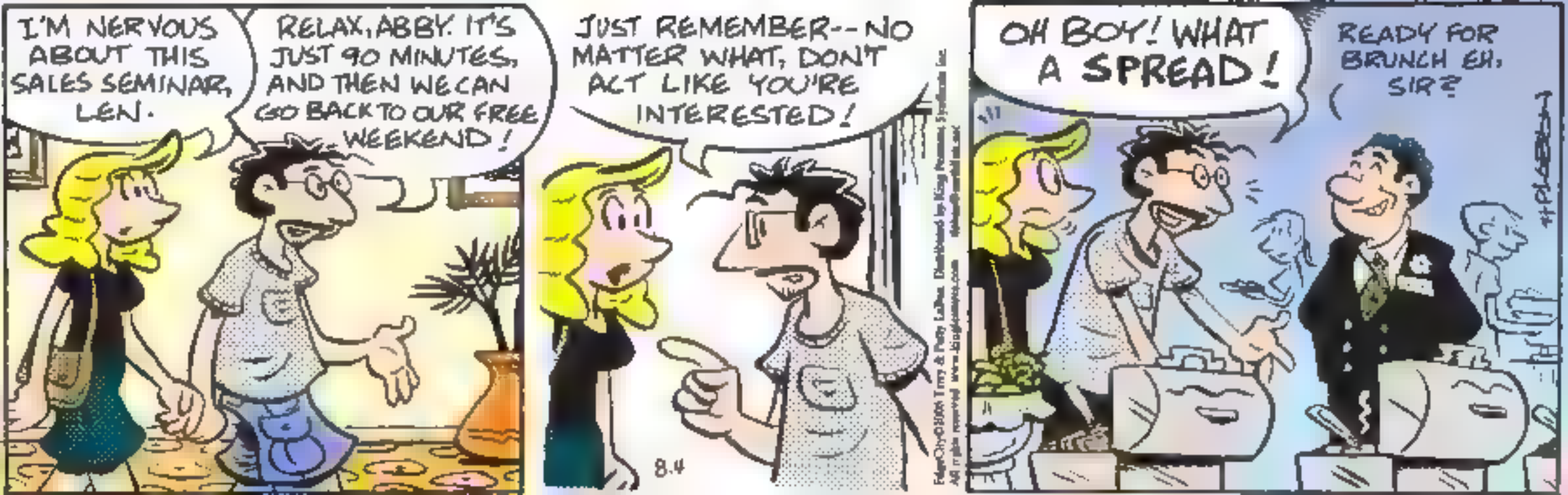
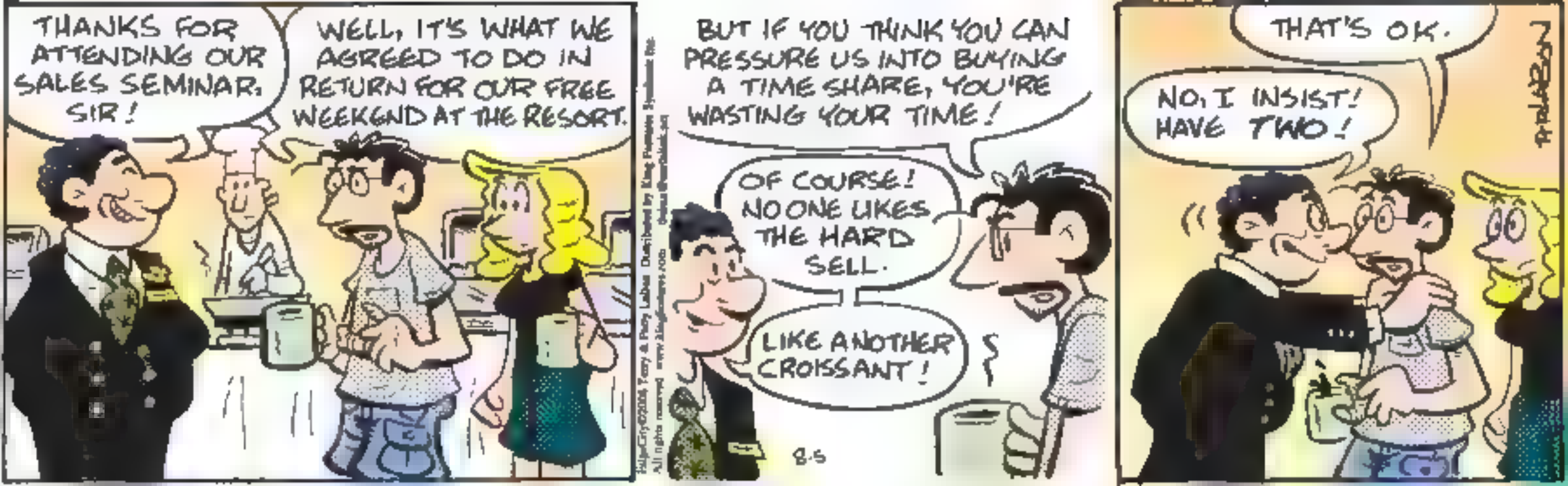
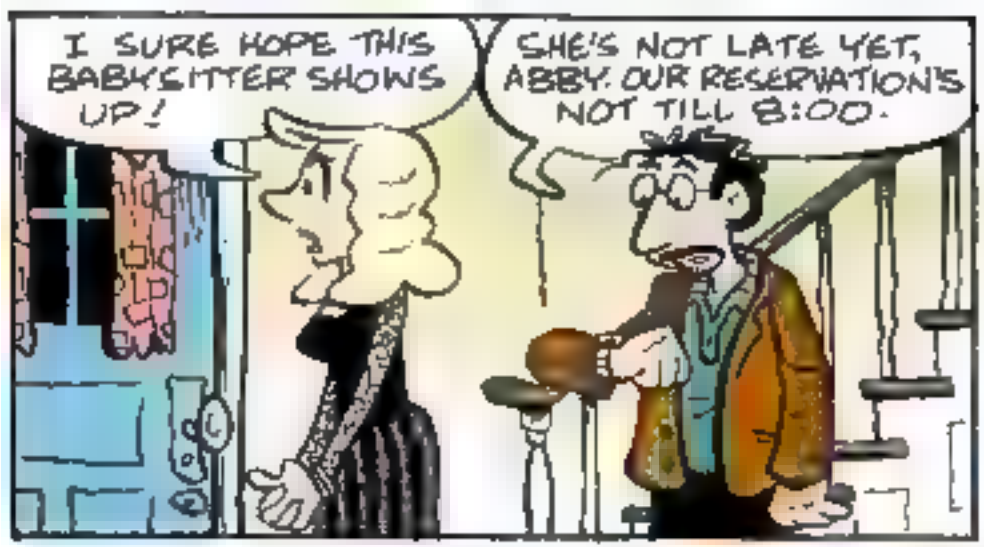


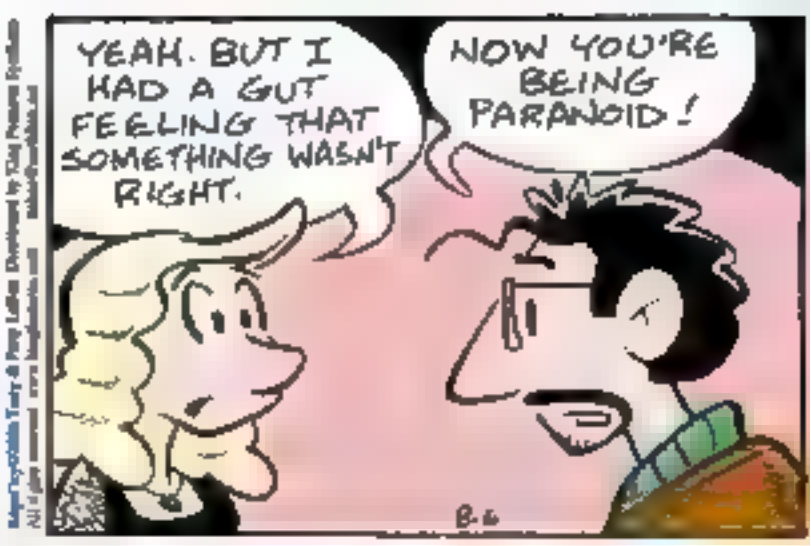



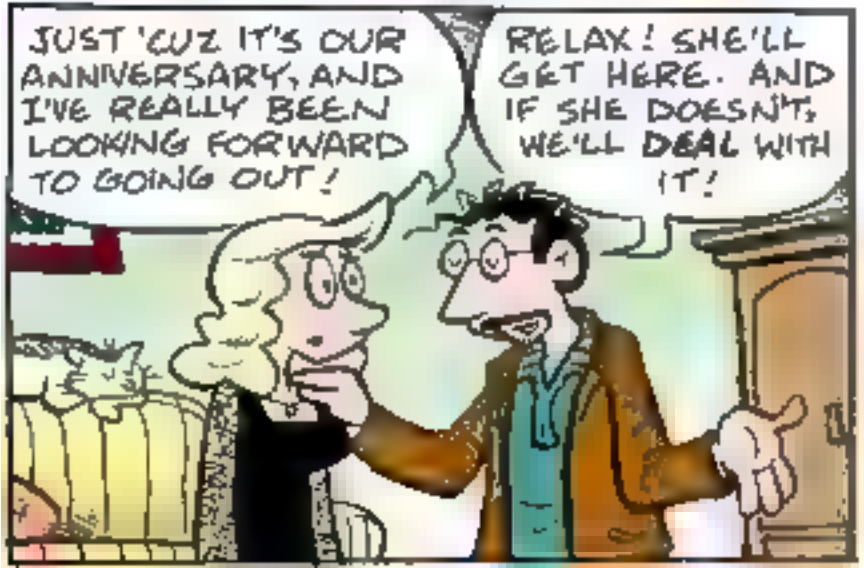

I'M NERVOUS ABOUT THIS SALES SEMINAR, LEN.
RELAX, ABBY. IT'S JUST 90 MINUTES, AND THEN WE CAN GO BACK TO OUR FREE WEEKEND!
JUST REMEMBER--NO MATTER WHAT, DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE INTERESTED!
8.4
OH BOY! WHAT A SPREAD!
READY FOR BRUNCH EH, SIR?

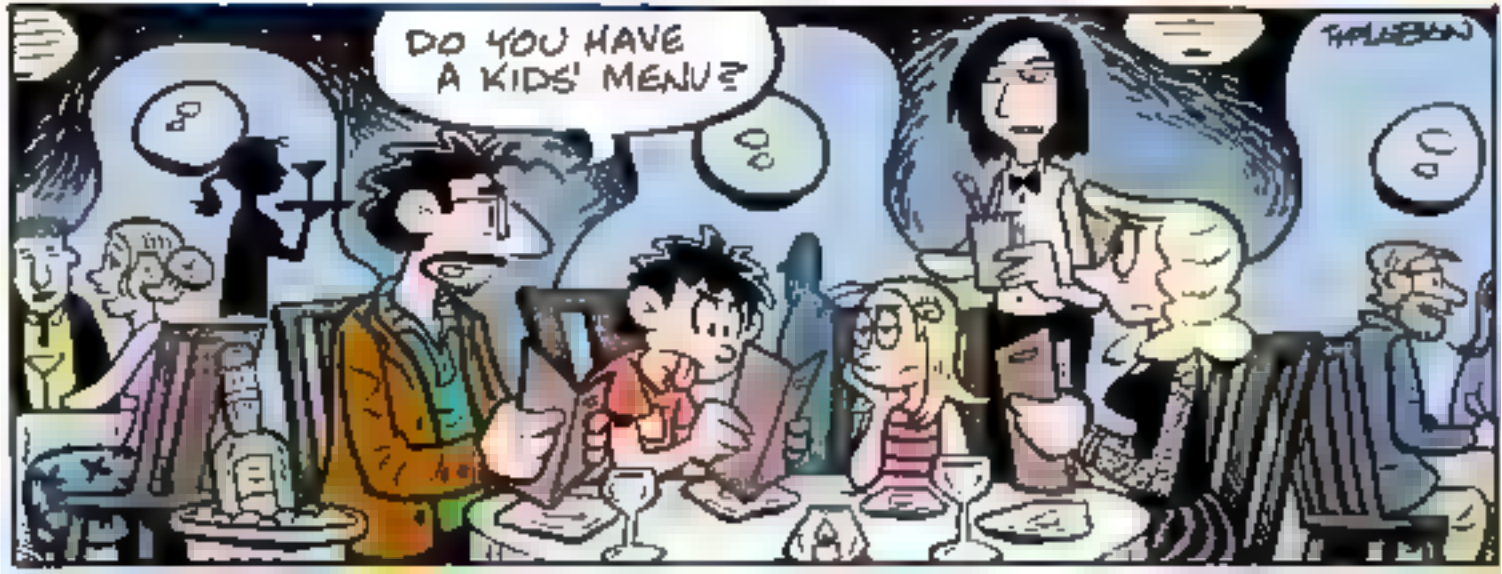

THANKS FOR ATTENDING OUR SALES SEMINAR, SIR!
WELL, IT'S WHAT WE AGREED TO DO IN RETURN FOR OUR FREE WEEKEND AT THE RESORT.
BUT IF YOU THINK YOU CAN PRESSURE US INTO BUYING A TIME SHARE, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!
OF COURSE! NO ONE LIKES THE HARD SELL.
LIKE ANOTHER CROISSANT!
8-5
THAT'S OK.
NO, I INSIST! HAVE TWO!

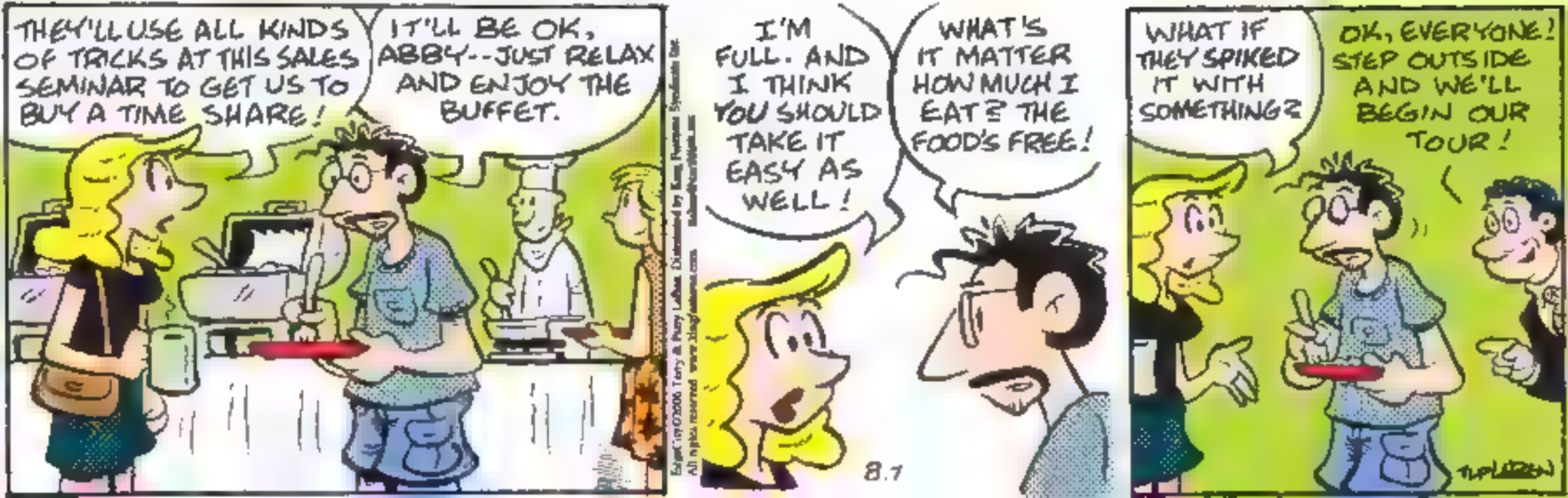

I SURE HOPE THIS BABYSITTER SHOWS UP!
SHE'S NOT LATE YET, ABBY. OUR RESERVATION'S NOT TILL 8:00.

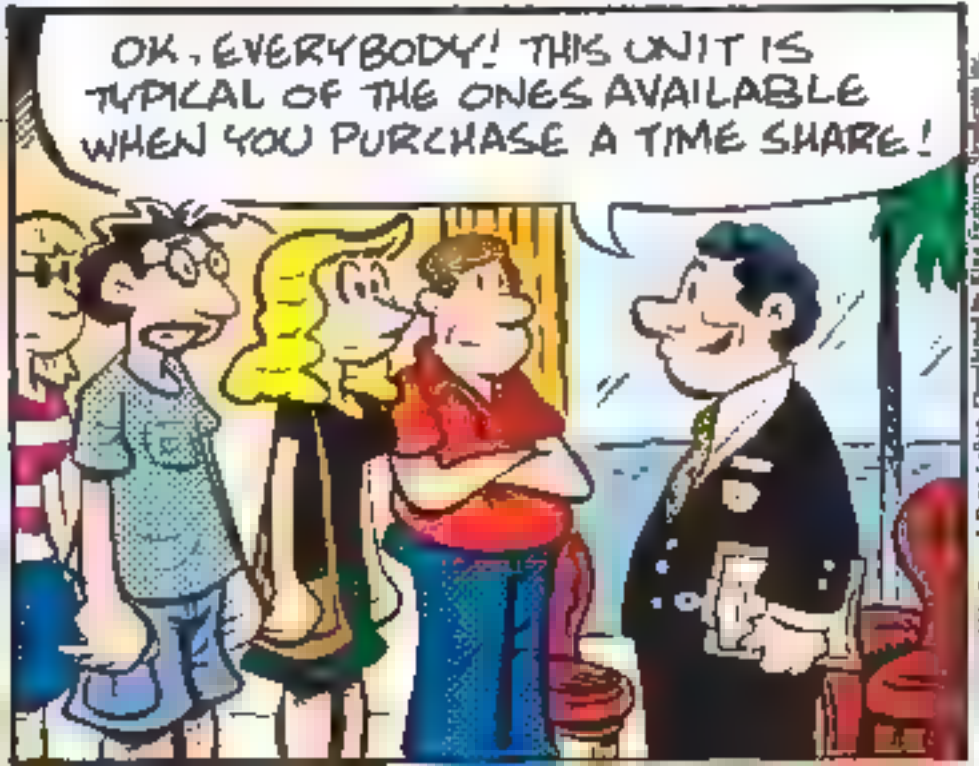
I'M STILL WORRIED. WE'VE NEVER USED HER BEFORE.
DIDN'T YOU CALL HER TO CONFIRM SHE'S COMING JUST A FEW HOURS AGO?

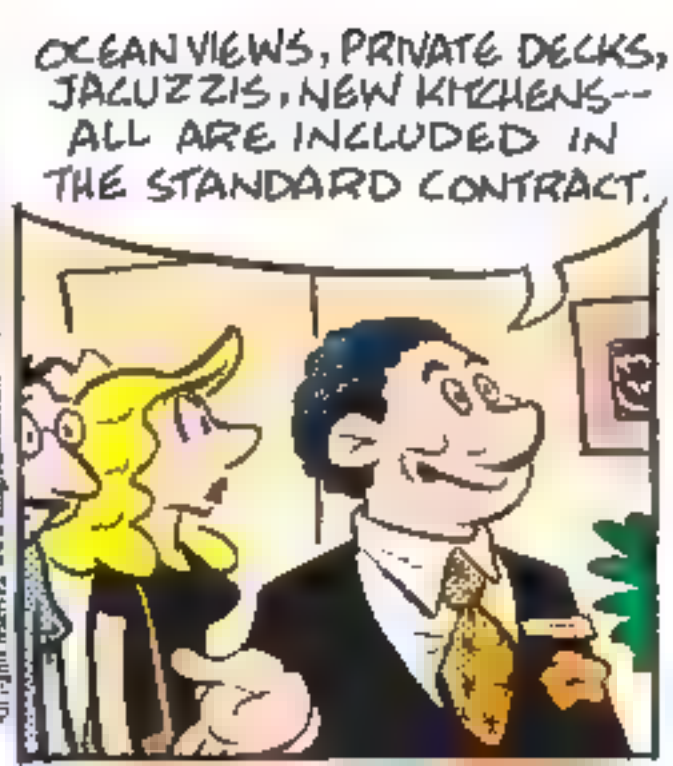

YEAH. BUT I HAD A GUT FEELING THAT SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT.
NOW YOU'RE BEING PARANOID!

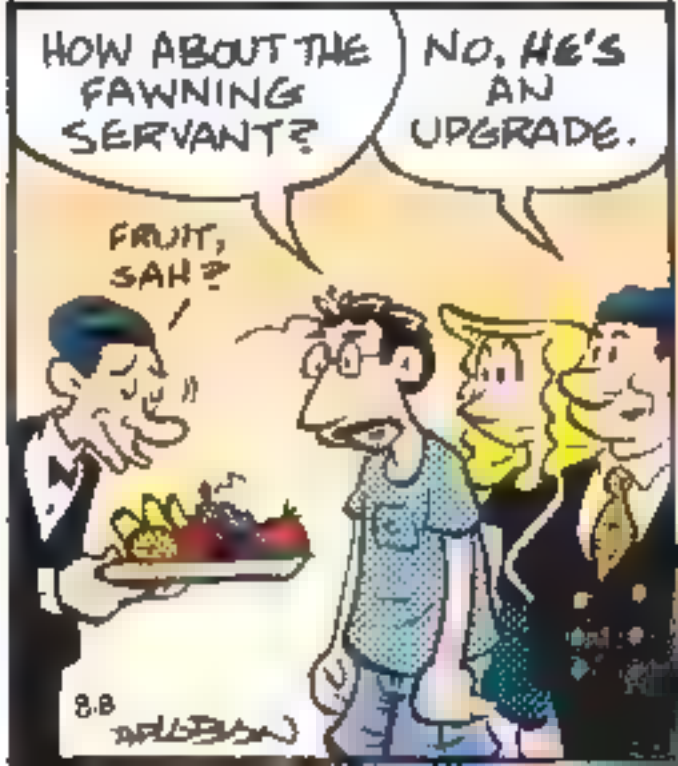

JUST 'CUZ IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY, AND I'VE REALLY BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING OUT!
RELAX! SHE'LL GET HERE. AND IF SHE DOESN'T, WE'LL DEAL WITH IT!

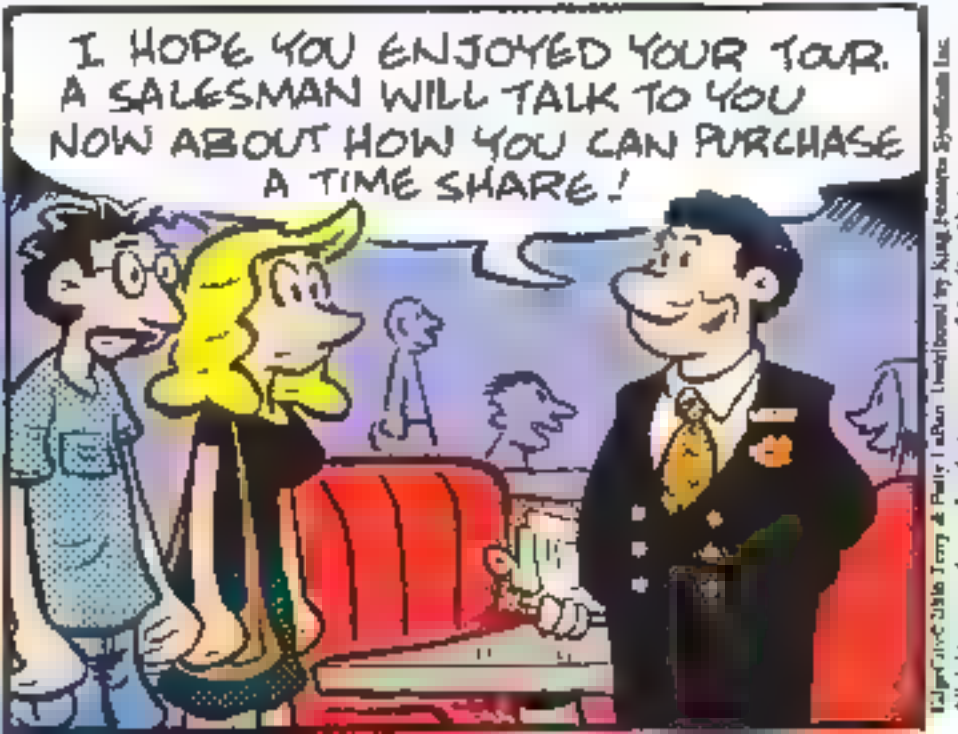

DO YOU HAVE A KIDS' MENU?


THEY'LL USE ALL KINDS OF TRICKS AT THIS SALES SEMINAR TO GET US TO BUY A TIME SHARE!
IT'LL BE OK, ABBY--JUST RELAX AND ENJOY THE BUFFET.
I'M FULL. AND I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE IT EASY AS WELL!
WHAT'S IT MATTER HOW MUCH I EAT? THE FOOD'S FREE!
8.1
WHAT IF THEY SPIKED IT WITH SOMETHING?
OK, EVERYONE! STEP OUTSIDE AND WE'LL BEGIN OUR TOUR!


OK, EVERYBODY! THIS UNIT IS TYPICAL OF THE ONES AVAILABLE WHEN YOU PURCHASE A TIME SHARE!


OCEAN VIEWS, PRIVATE DECKS, JACUZZIS, NEW KITCHENS-- ALL ARE INCLUDED IN THE STANDARD CONTRACT.


HOW ABOUT THE FAWNING SERVANT?
NO, HE'S AN UPGRADE.
FRUIT, SAH?
8.8

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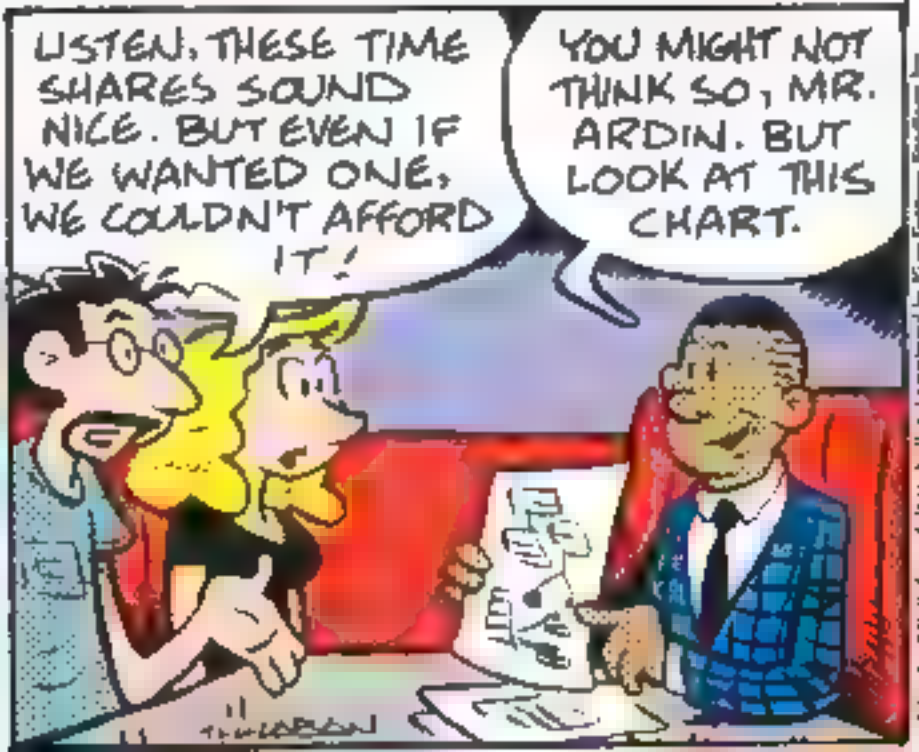
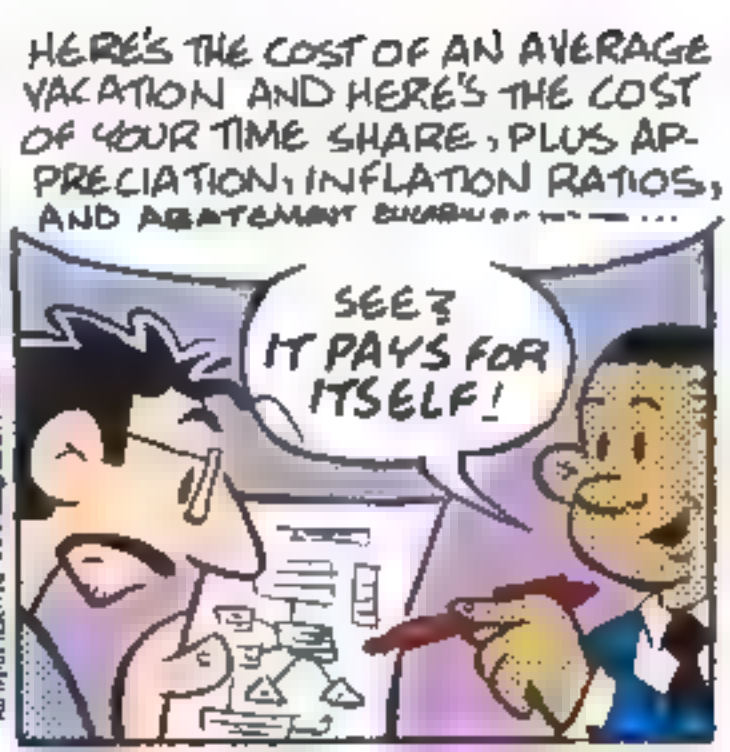
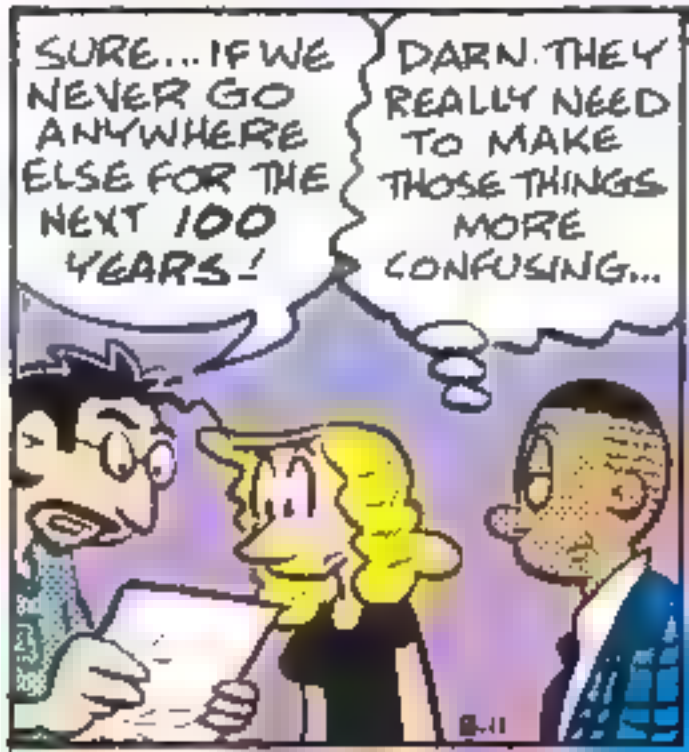
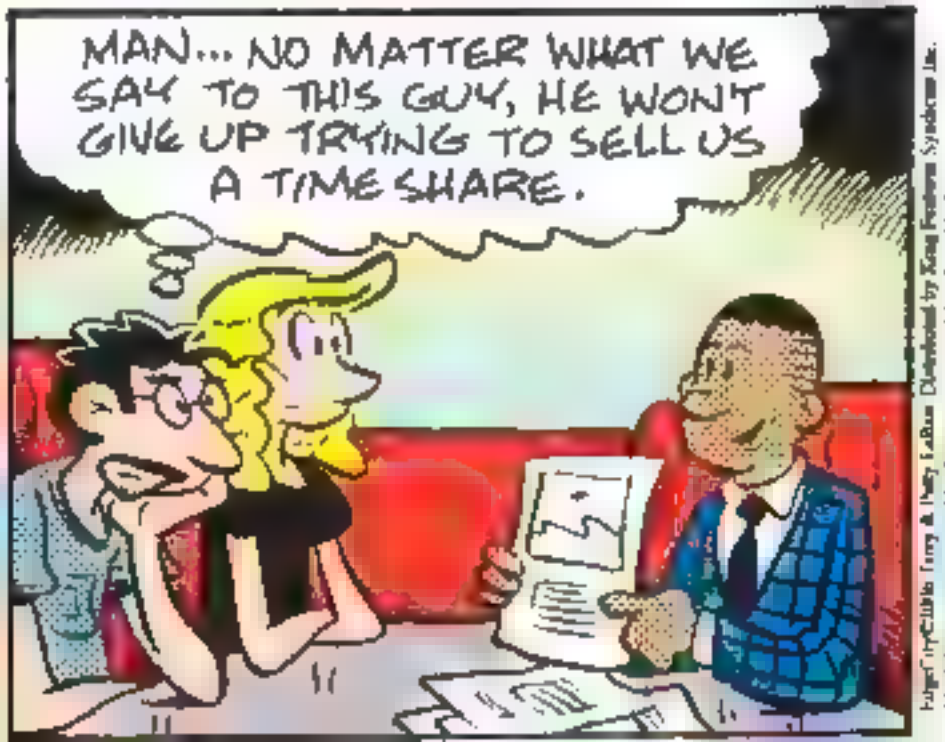
MR. AND MRS. ARDIN, I'M VERY EXCITED TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO BUY A VACATION TIME SHARE!
THANKS, BUT NO THANKS.
WE'RE ONLY HERE FOR THE FREE WEEKEND. WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN A TIME SHARE.
THANKS FOR BEING HONEST. I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY.
8.10
LET ME START BY DESCRIBING OUR STANDARD CONTRACT...
THIS IS GOING TO BE TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.


LISTEN, THESE TIME SHARES SOUND NICE. BUT EVEN IF WE WANTED ONE, WE COULDN'T AFFORD IT!
YOU MIGHT NOT THINK SO, MR. ARDIN. BUT LOOK AT THIS CHART.

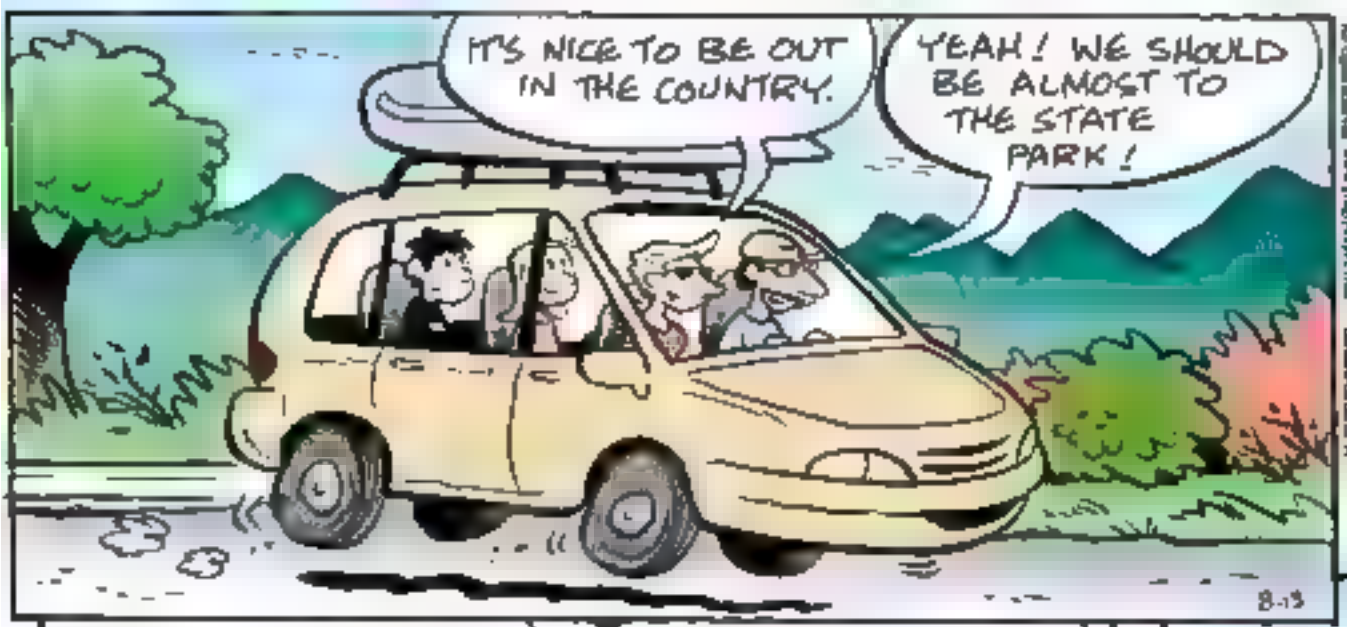

HERE'S THE COST OF AN AVERAGE VACATION AND HERE'S THE COST OF YOUR TIME SHARE, PLUS APPRECIATION, INFLATION RATIOS, AND ABATEMENT
SEE? IT PAYS FOR ITSELF!

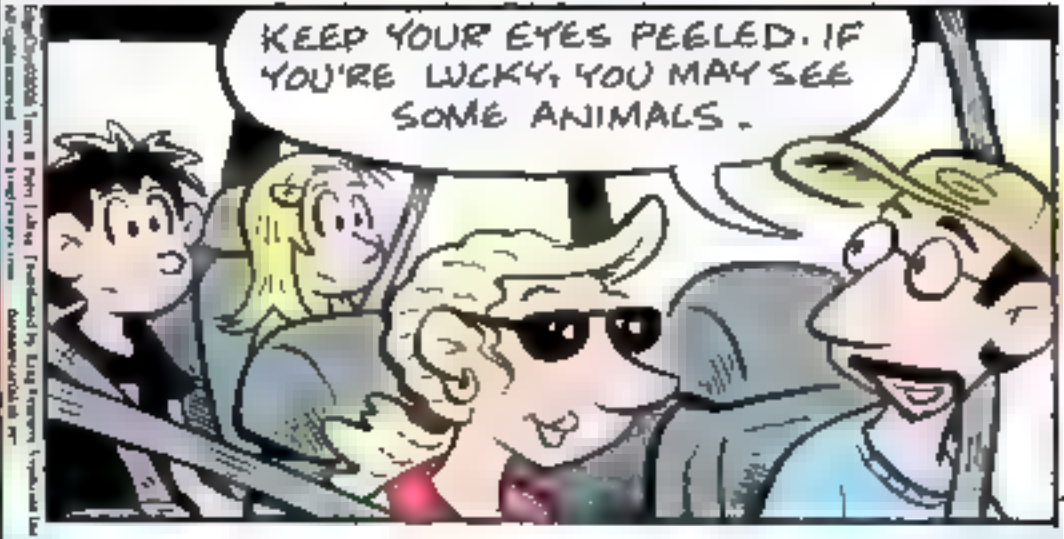

SURE... IF WE NEVER GO ANYWHERE ELSE FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS!
DARN. THEY REALLY NEED TO MAKE THOSE THINGS MORE CONFUSING...

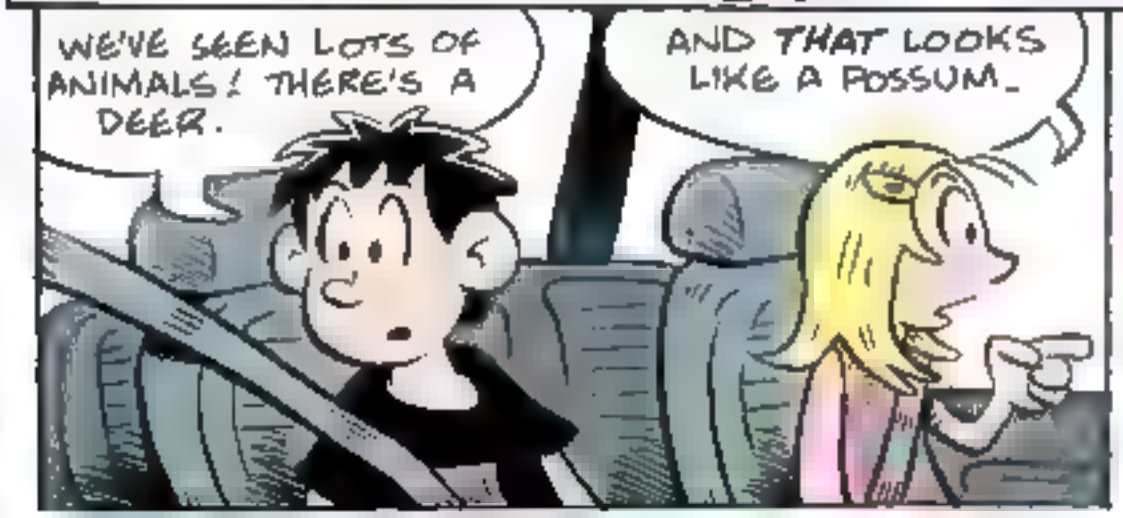

MAN... NO MATTER WHAT WE SAY TO THIS GUY, HE WONT GIVE UP TRYING TO SELL US A TIMESHARE.

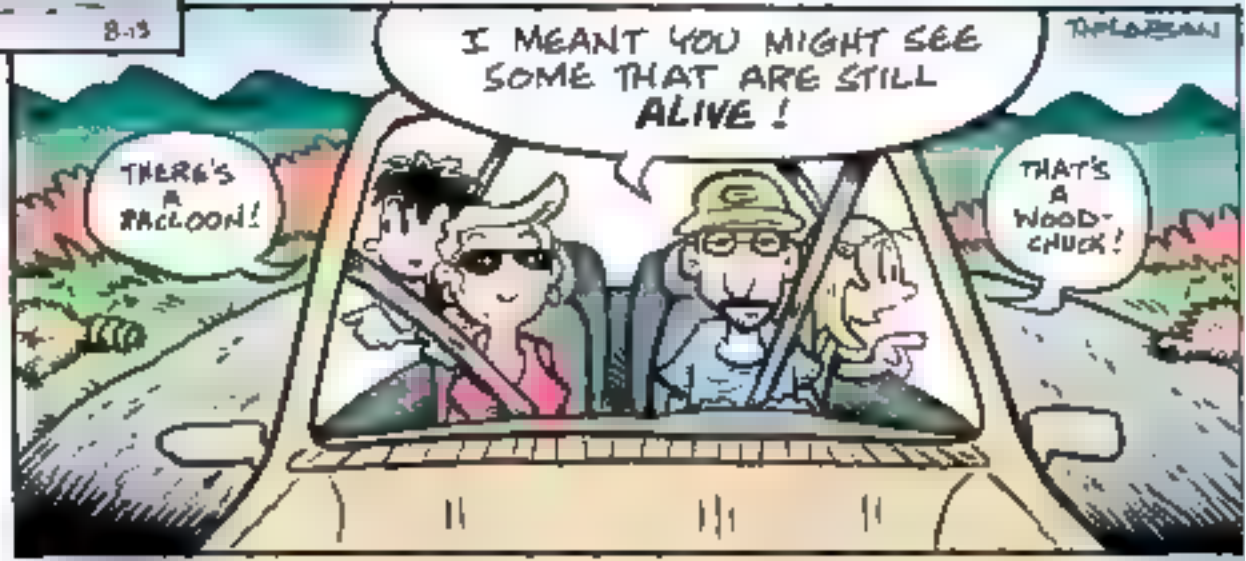
I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. WHEN IS HE GOING TO REALIZE HE'S WASTING HIS TIME?
8-12

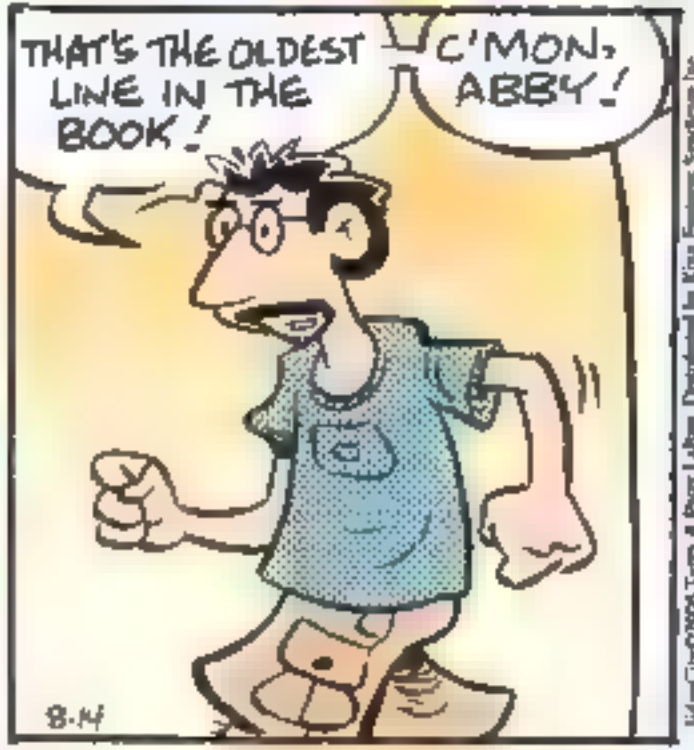
Y'KNOW, LEN... WE MAY WANT TO THINK ABOUT THIS...
!!!
THAUBAN


IT'S NICE TO BE OUT IN THE COUNTRY.
YEAH! WE SHOULD BE ALMOST TO THE STATE PARK!
8-13


KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED. IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU MAY SEE SOME ANIMALS.


WE'VE SEEN LOTS OF ANIMALS! THERE'S A DEER.
AND THAT LOOKS LIKE A POSSUM.


I MEANT YOU MIGHT SEE SOME THAT ARE STILL ALIVE!
THERE'S A RACCOON!
THAT'S A WOODCHUCK!
TAPLORSAN

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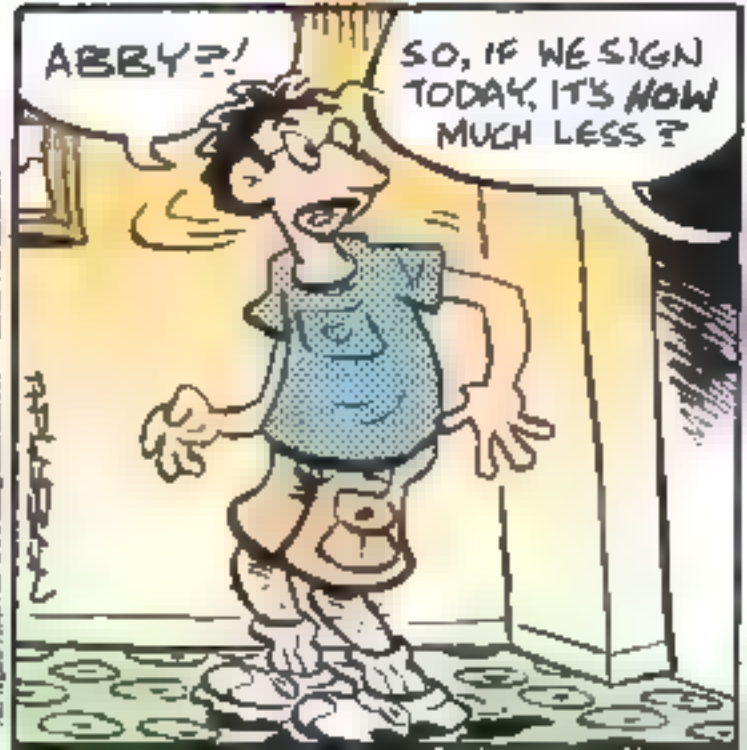
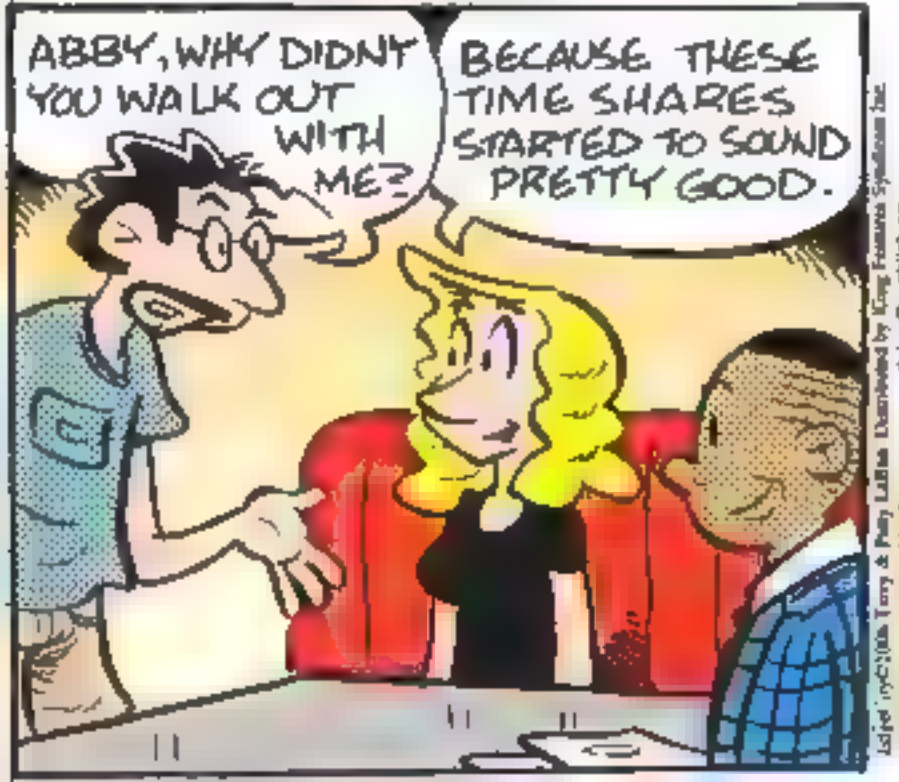
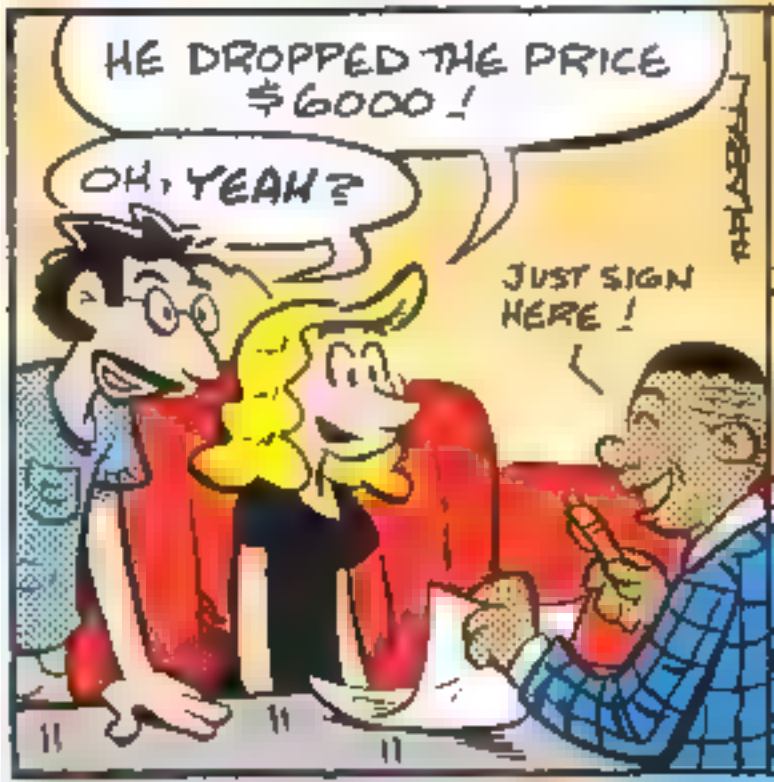
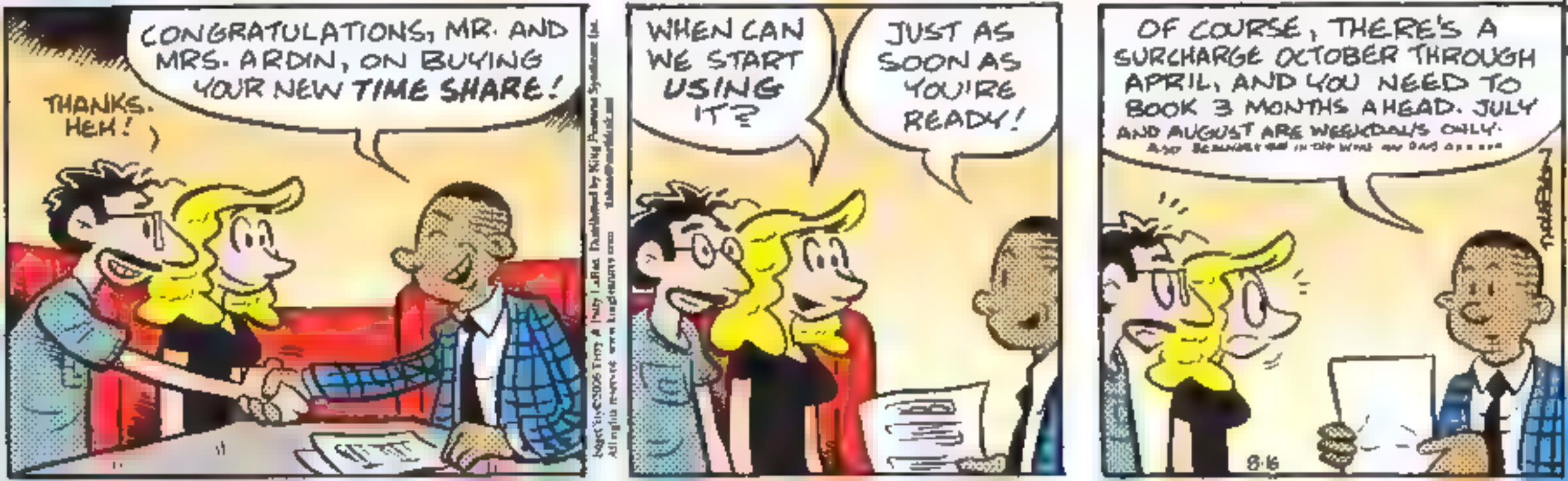
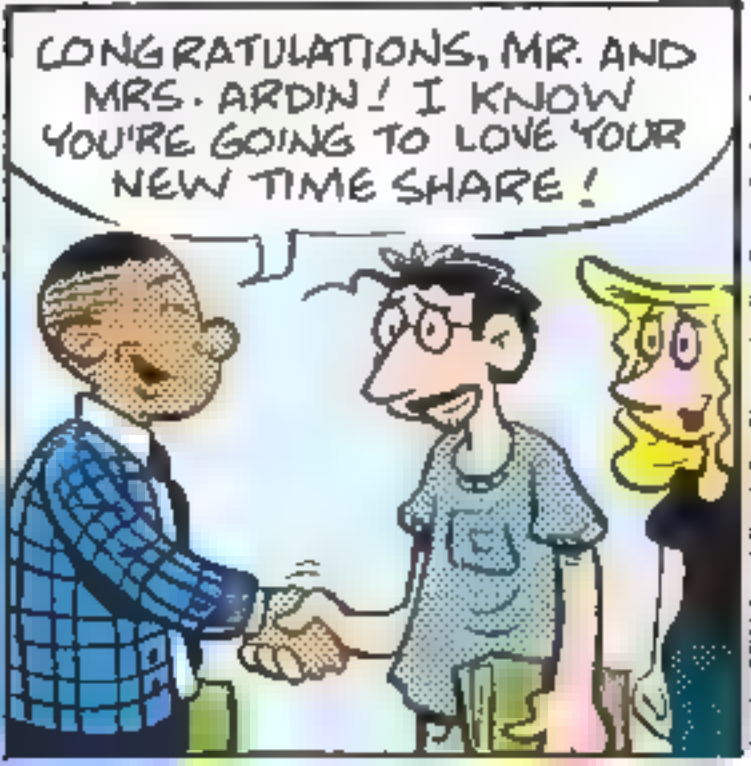



ABBY, WHY DIDN'T YOU WALK OUT WITH ME?
BECAUSE THESE TIME SHARES STARTED TO SOUND PRETTY GOOD.

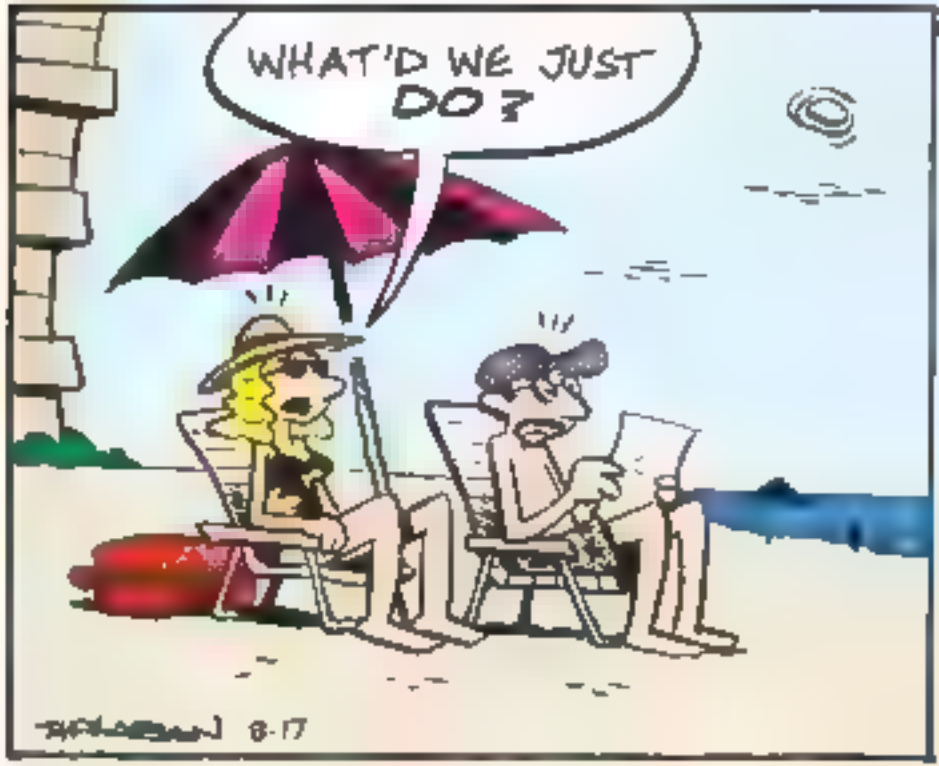
WE'D TAKE A LOT MORE VACATIONS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO PAY FOR HOTELS!
BUT WE AGREED NOT TO BUY ANYTHING. AND ANYHOW, IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE!

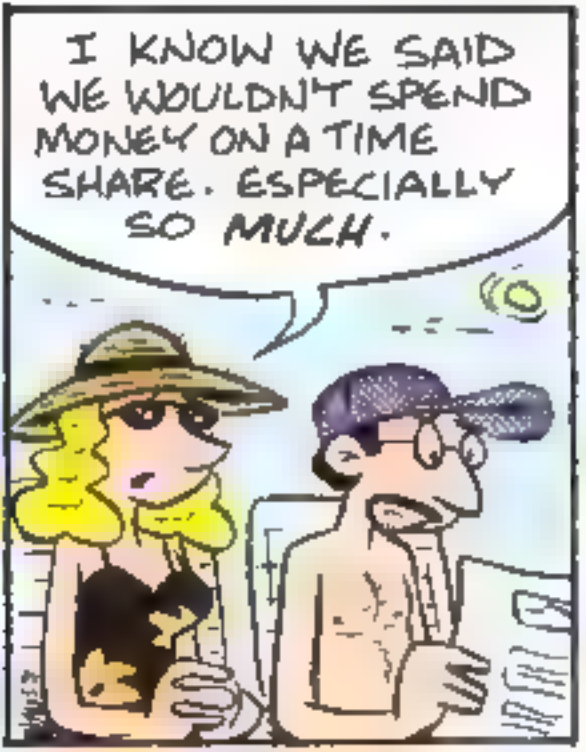

HE DROPPED THE PRICE $6000!
OH, YEAH?
JUST SIGN HERE!


CONGRATULATIONS, MR. AND MRS. ARDIN, ON BUYING YOUR NEW TIME SHARE!
THANKS. HEH!
WHEN CAN WE START USING IT?
JUST AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY!
OF COURSE, THERE'S A SURCHARGE OCTOBER THROUGH APRIL, AND YOU NEED TO BOOK 3 MONTHS AHEAD. JULY AND AUGUST ARE WEEKDAYS ONLY.
8-16


CONGRATULATIONS, MR. AND MRS. ARDIN! I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE YOUR NEW TIME SHARE!

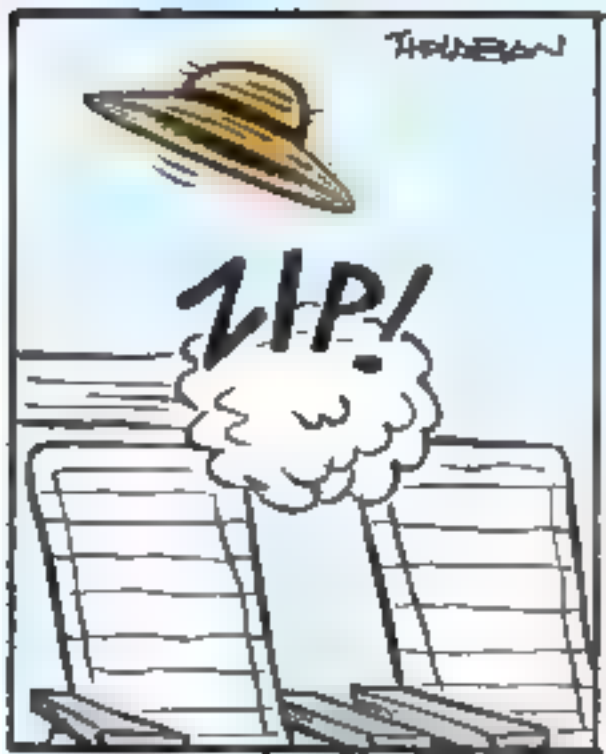
THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS, AND ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR FREE VACATION!

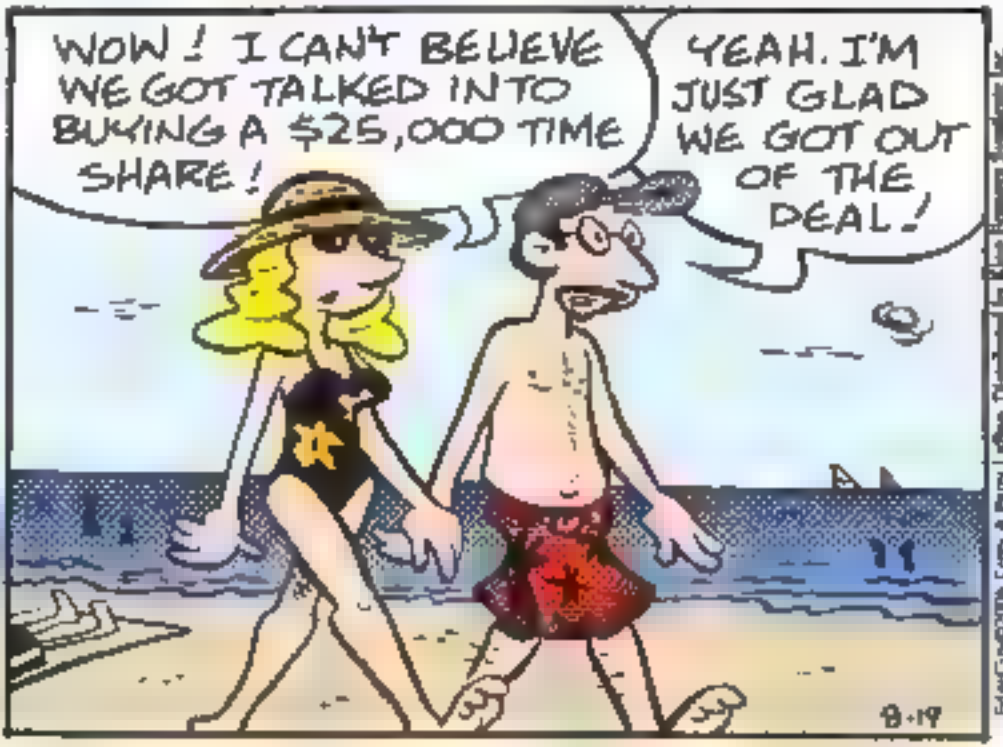

WHAT'D WE JUST DO?
8-17


I KNOW WE SAID WE WOULDN'T SPEND MONEY ON A TIME SHARE. ESPECIALLY SO MUCH.

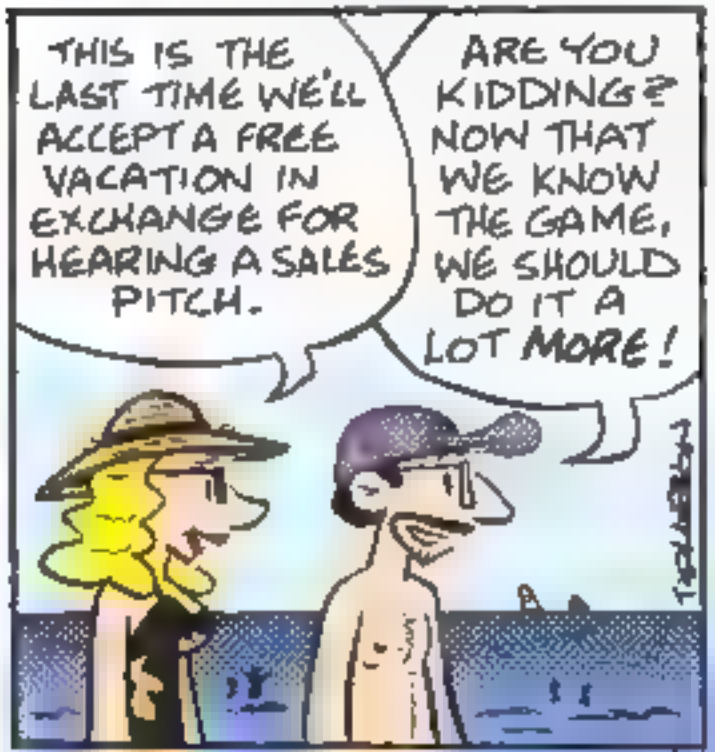
BUT NOW THAT WE'VE BOUGHT ONE, I THINK WE'LL ENJOY IT. I'M EXCITED ABOUT THIS. REALLY!

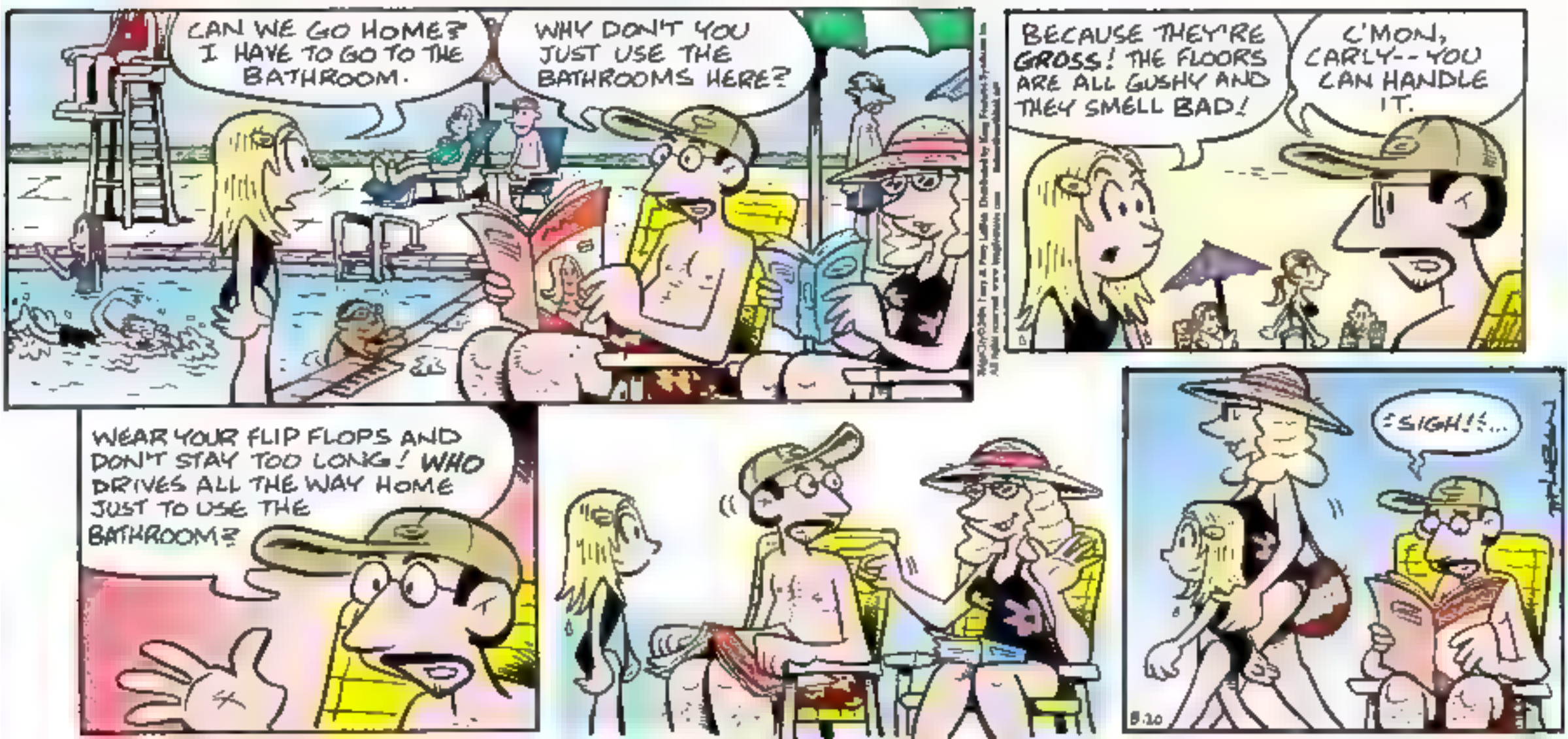
LOOK, ABBY-- HERE IN THE FINE PRINT! WE HAVE 72 HOURS TO BACK OUT OF THE DEAL!

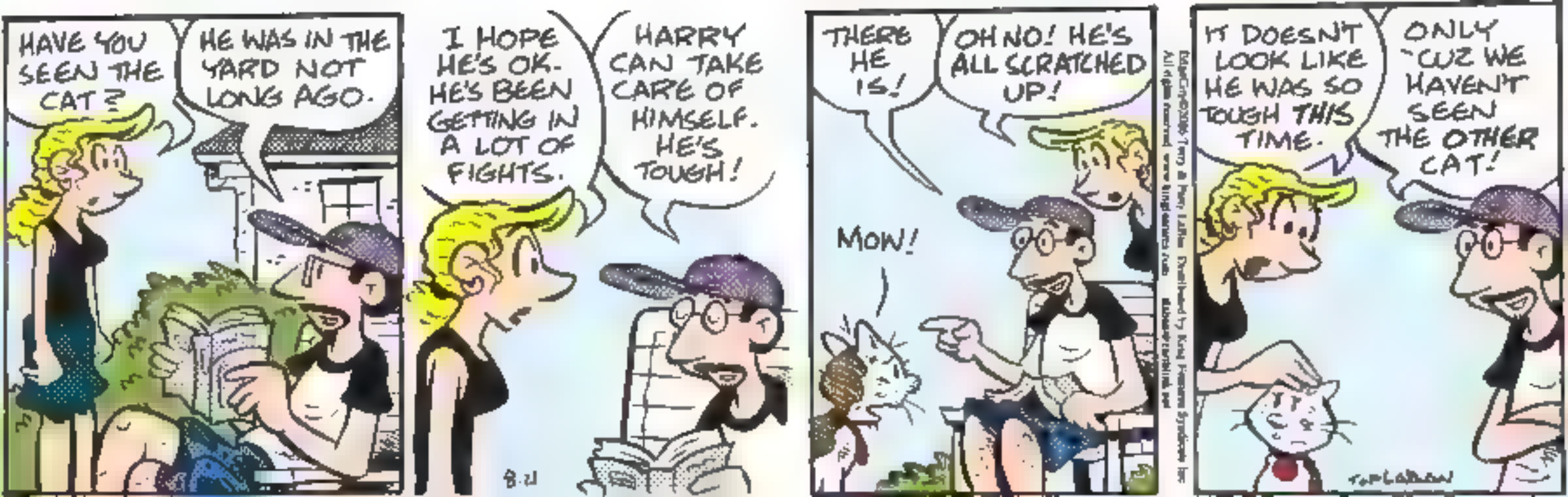

THANEBAN
ZIP!

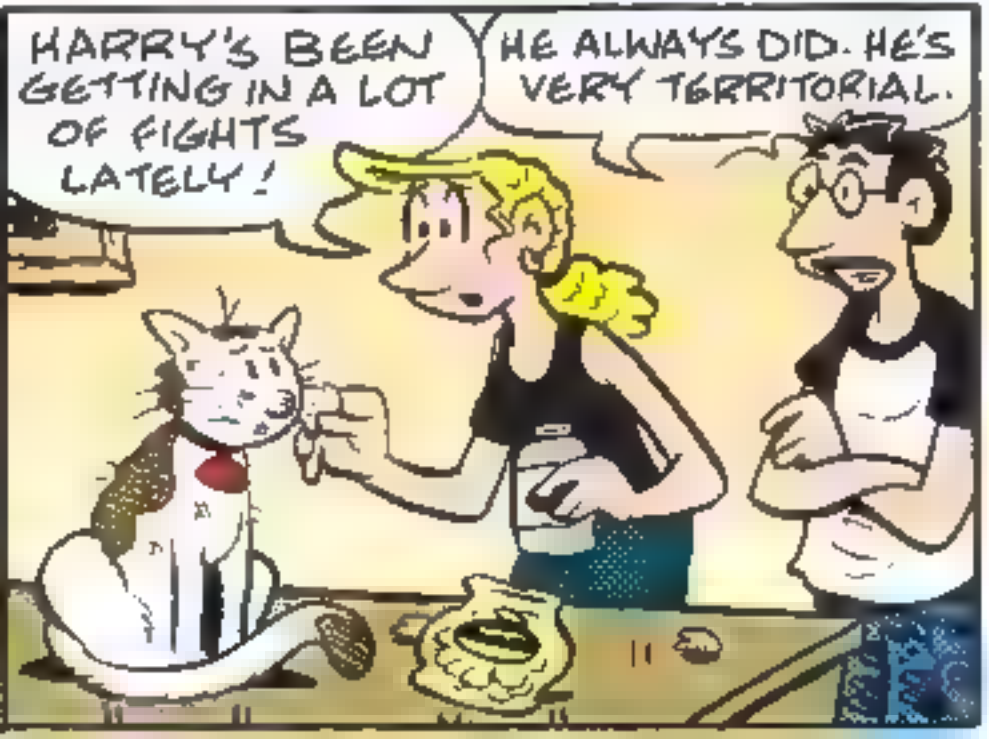

WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT TALKED INTO BUYING A $25,000 TIME SHARE!
YEAH. I'M JUST GLAD WE GOT OUT OF THE DEAL!
8-19

I GUESS WE WEREN'T AS SMART AS WE THOUGHT WE WERE.
WELL, LIVE AND LEARN.

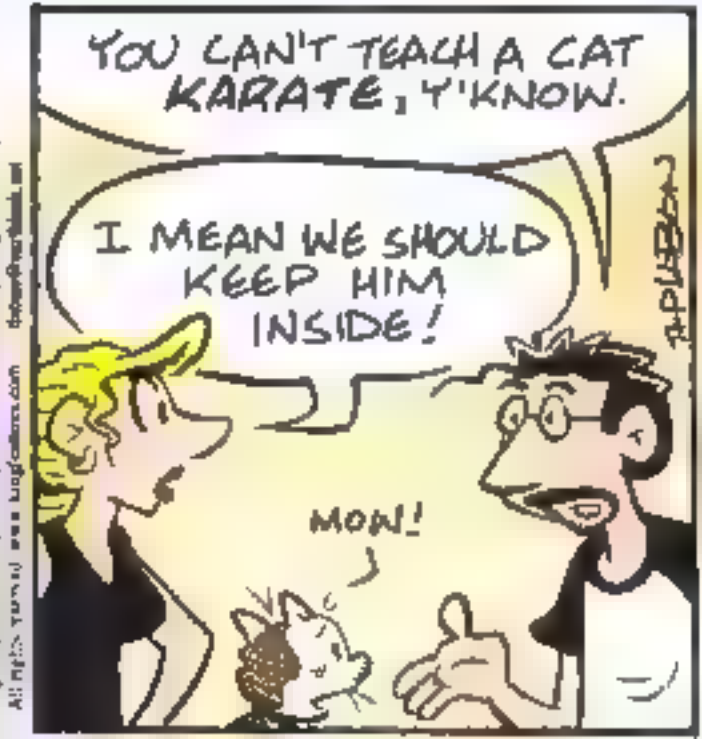

THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE'LL ACCEPT A FREE VACATION IN EXCHANGE FOR HEARING A SALES PITCH.
ARE YOU KIDDING? NOW THAT WE KNOW THE GAME, WE SHOULD DO IT A LOT MORE!

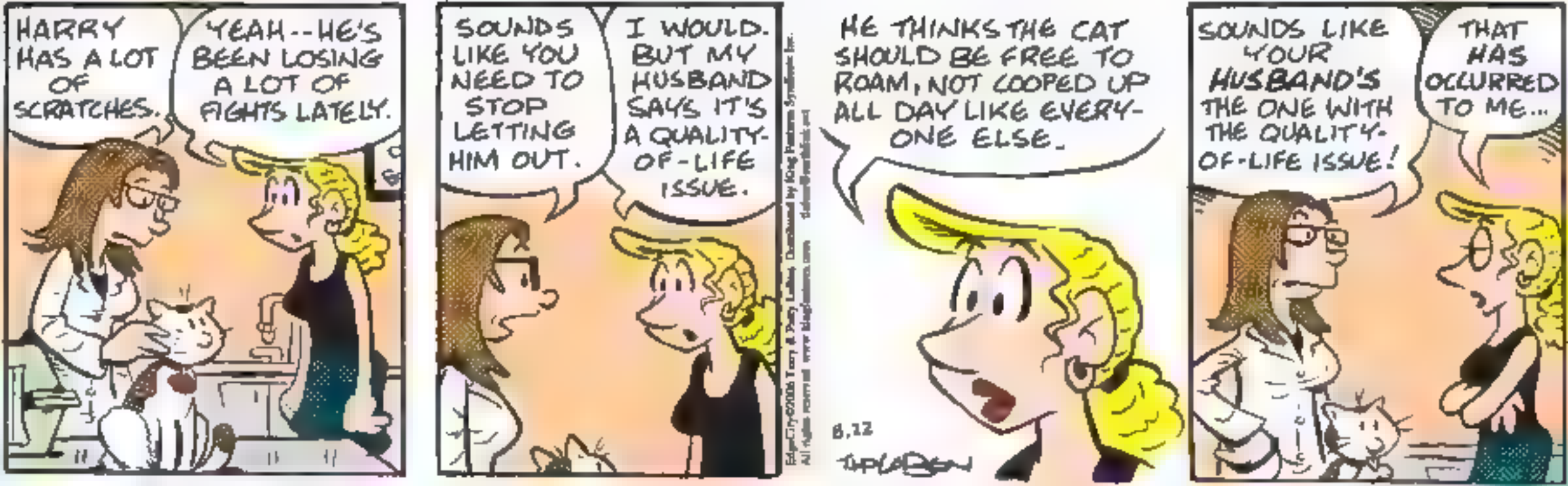

CAN WE GO HOME? I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST USE THE BATHROOMS HERE?
BECAUSE THEY'RE GROSS! THE FLOORS ARE ALL GUSHY AND THEY SMELL BAD!
C'MON, CARLY--YOU CAN HANDLE IT.
WEAR YOUR FLIP FLOPS AND DON'T STAY TOO LONG! WHO DRIVES ALL THE WAY HOME JUST TO USE THE BATHROOM?
SIGH!...

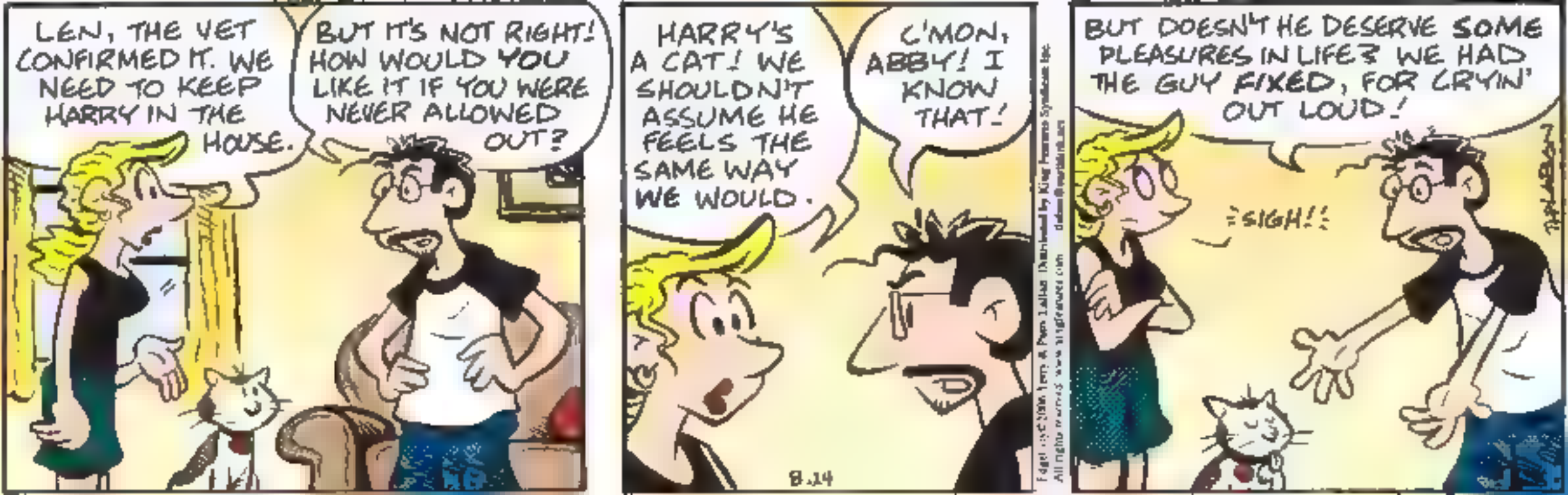

HAVE YOU SEEN THE CAT?
HE WAS IN THE YARD NOT LONG AGO.
I HOPE HE'S OK. HE'S BEEN GETTING IN A LOT OF FIGHTS.
HARRY CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF. HE'S TOUGH!
THERE HE IS!
OH NO! HE'S ALL SCRATCHED UP!
MOW!
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE WAS SO TOUGH THIS TIME.
ONLY 'CUZ WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE OTHER CAT!

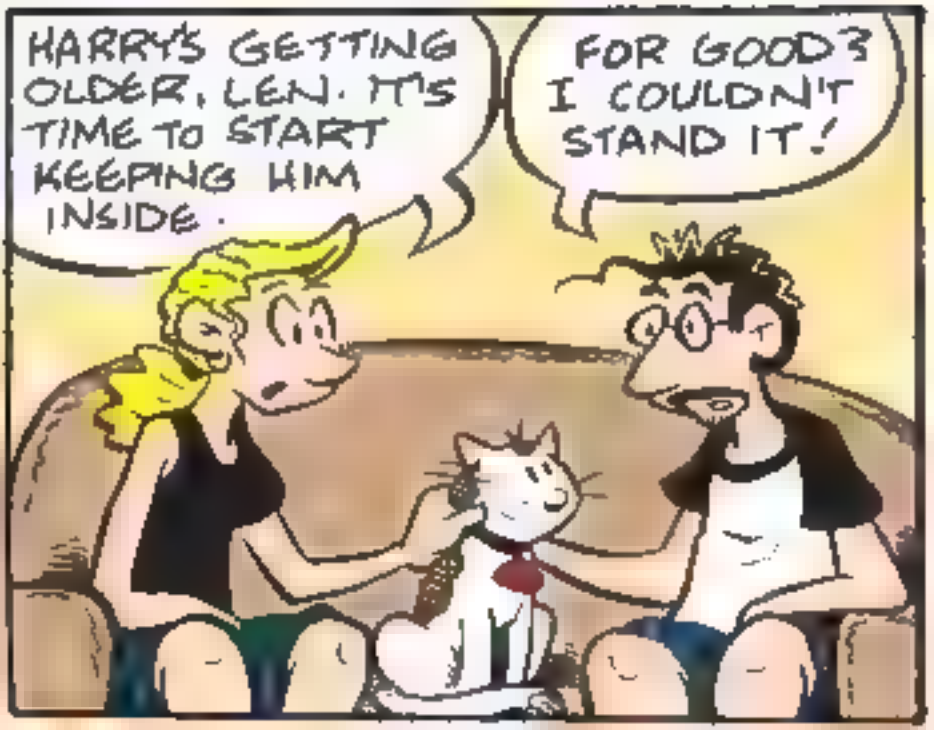

HARRY'S BEEN GETTING IN A LOT OF FIGHTS LATELY!
HE ALWAYS DID. HE'S VERY TERRITORIAL.

BUT HE DIDN'T USED TO GET SO SCRATCHED UP! WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING!
MAYBE. BUT WHAT?
8-22


YOU CAN'T TEACH A CAT KARATE, Y'KNOW.
I MEAN WE SHOULD KEEP HIM INSIDE!
MOW!


HARRY HAS A LOT OF SCRATCHES.
YEAH--HE'S BEEN LOSING A LOT OF FIGHTS LATELY.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU NEED TO STOP LETTING HIM OUT.
I WOULD. BUT MY HUSBAND SAYS IT'S A QUALITY-OF-LIFE ISSUE.
HE THINKS THE CAT SHOULD BE FREE TO ROAM, NOT COOPED UP ALL DAY LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE.
SOUNDS LIKE YOUR HUSBAND'S THE ONE WITH THE QUALITY-OF-LIFE ISSUE!
THAT HAS OCCURRED TO ME...
8.12


LEN, THE VET CONFIRMED IT. WE NEED TO KEEP HARRY IN THE HOUSE.
BUT IT'S NOT RIGHT! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF YOU WERE NEVER ALLOWED OUT?
HARRY'S A CAT! WE SHOULDN'T ASSUME HE FEELS THE SAME WAY WE WOULD.
C'MON, ABBY! I KNOW THAT!
8.14
BUT DOESN'T HE DESERVE SOME PLEASURES IN LIFE? WE HAD THE GUY FIXED, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
SIGH!!



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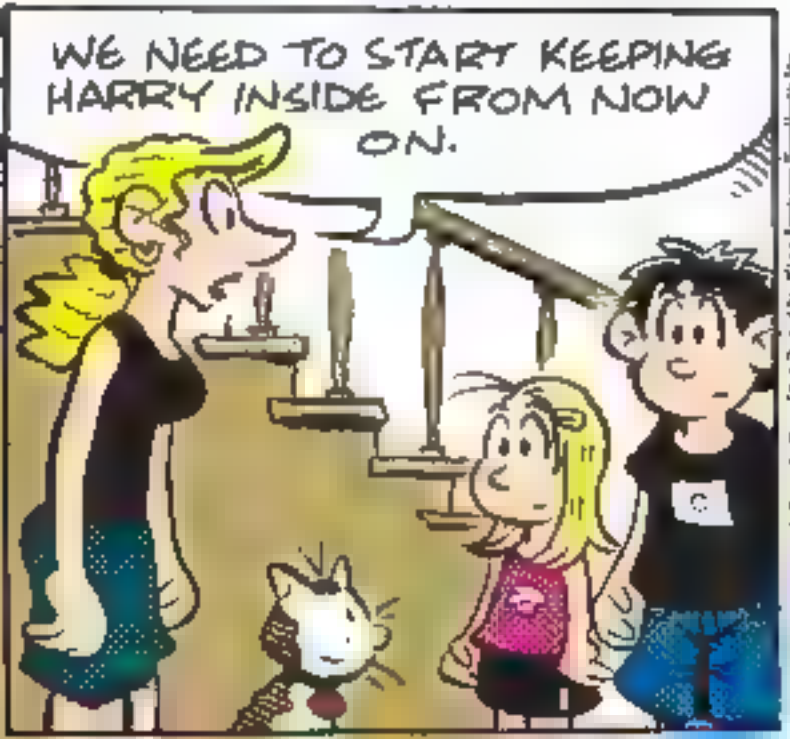
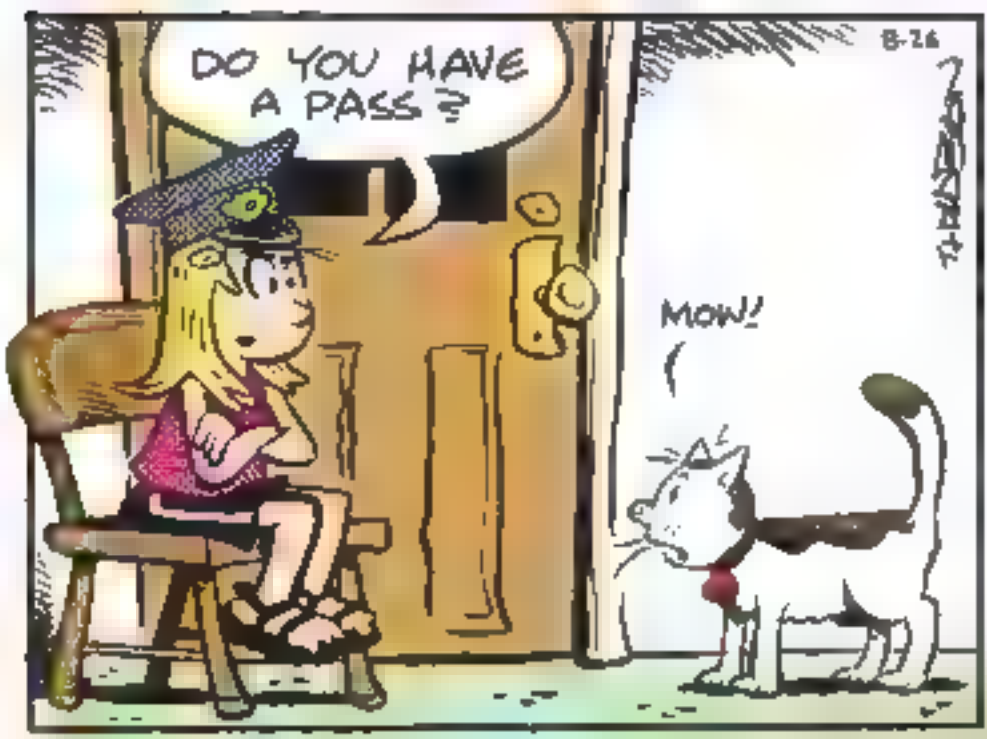
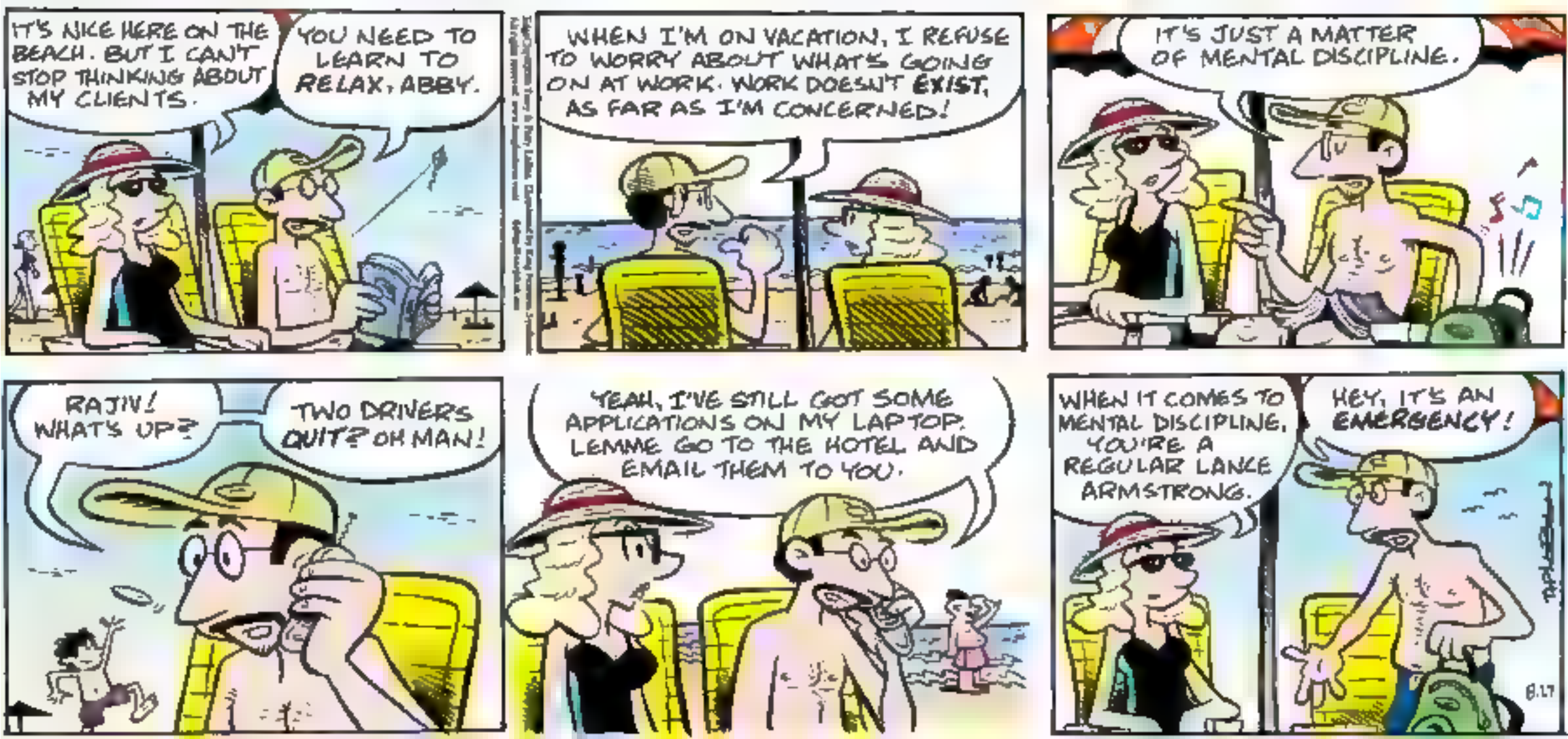
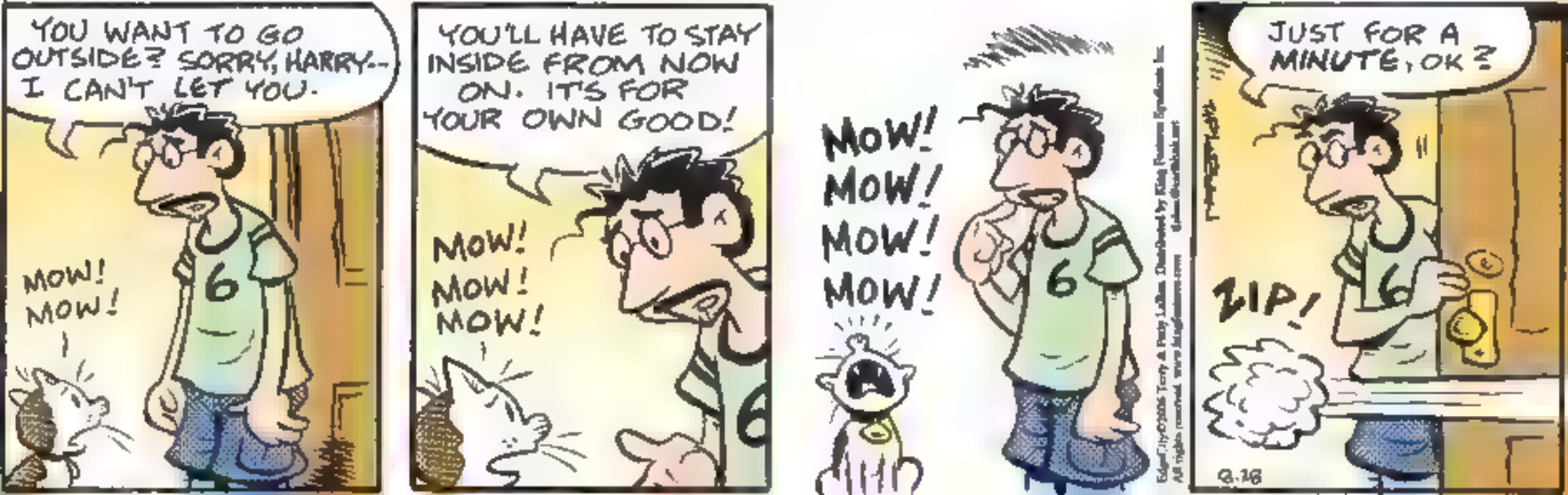
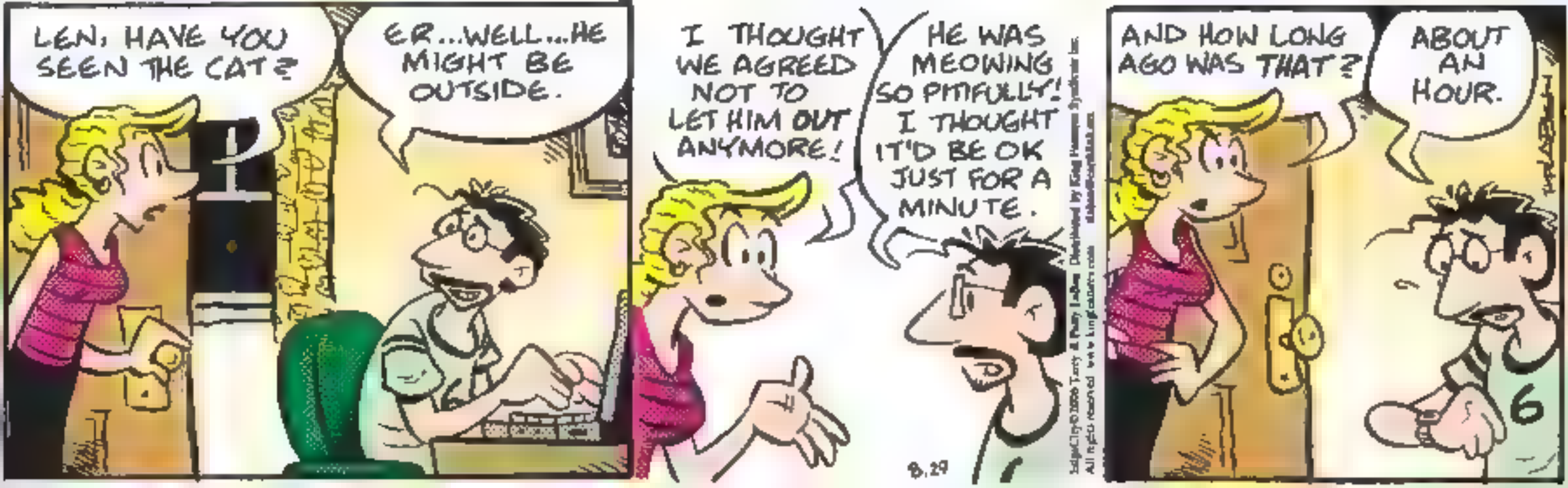

WE NEED TO START KEEPING HARRY INSIDE FROM NOW ON.

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR HIS SAFETY. I NEED YOU GUYS TO HELP, OK?


DO YOU HAVE A PASS?
MOW!
8-26

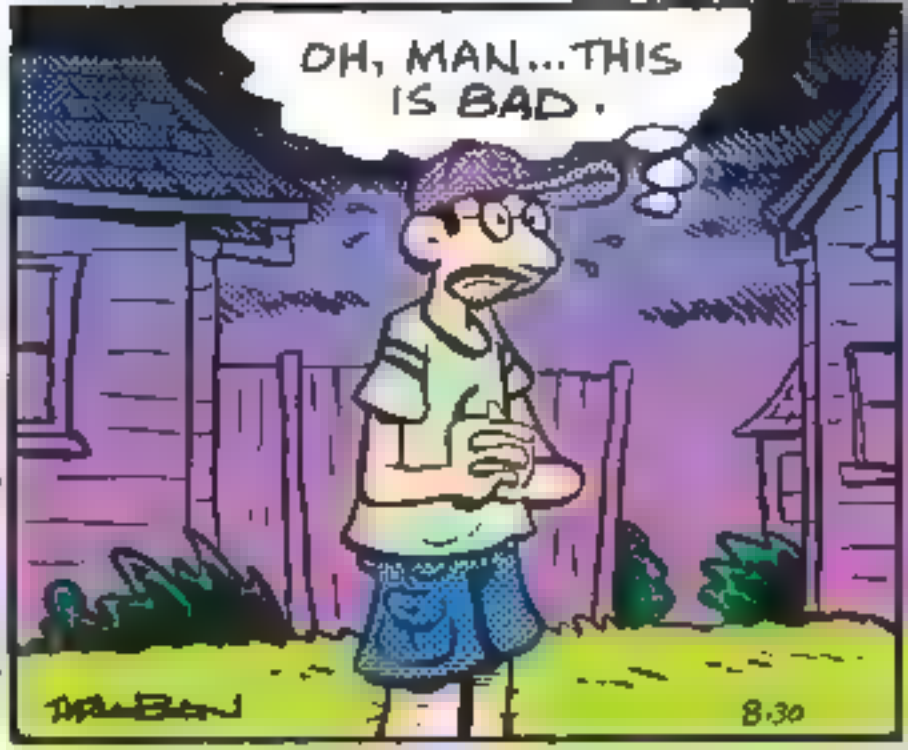

IT'S NICE HERE ON THE BEACH. BUT I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT MY CLIENTS.
YOU NEED TO LEARN TO RELAX, ABBY.
WHEN I'M ON VACATION, I REFUSE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON AT WORK. WORK DOESN'T EXIST, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED!
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF MENTAL DISCIPLINE.
RAJIV! WHAT'S UP?
TWO DRIVERS QUIT? OH MAN!
YEAH, I'VE STILL GOT SOME APPLICATIONS ON MY LAPTOP. LEMME GO TO THE HOTEL AND EMAIL THEM TO YOU.
WHEN IT COMES TO MENTAL DISCIPLINE, YOU'RE A REGULAR LANCE ARMSTRONG.
HEY, IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
8.17


YOU WANT TO GO OUTSIDE? SORRY, HARRY-- I CAN'T LET YOU.
MOW! MOW!
YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY INSIDE FROM NOW ON. IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
MOW! MOW! MOW!
MOW! MOW! MOW! MOW!
JUST FOR A MINUTE, OK?
ZIP!


LEN, HAVE YOU SEEN THE CAT?
ER...WELL...HE MIGHT BE OUTSIDE.
I THOUGHT WE AGREED NOT TO LET HIM OUT ANYMORE!
HE WAS MEOWING SO PITIFULLY! I THOUGHT IT'D BE OK JUST FOR A MINUTE.
8.29
AND HOW LONG AGO WAS THAT?
ABOUT AN HOUR.

IT'S GETTING DARK, AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE CAT! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LET HIM OUT!
I'M SORRY! I SCREWED UP!

I'LL GO OUT AND FIND HIM, OK? I'M SURE THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.


OH, MAN...THIS IS BAD.
8-30

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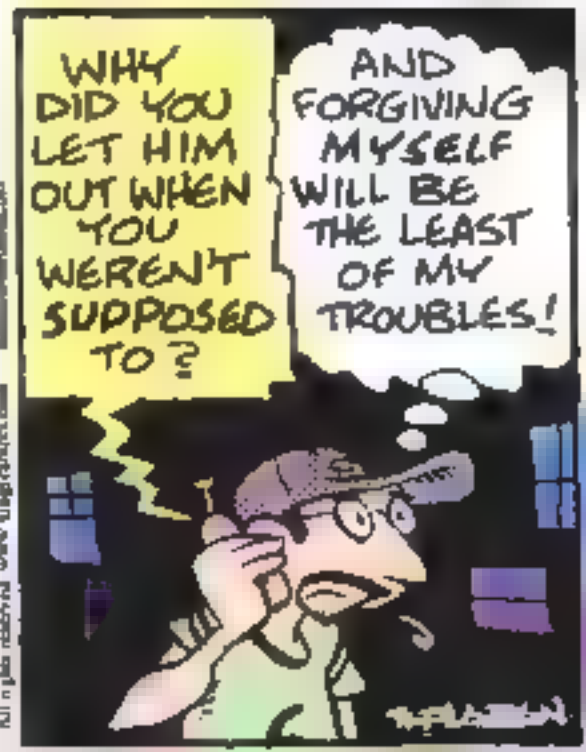
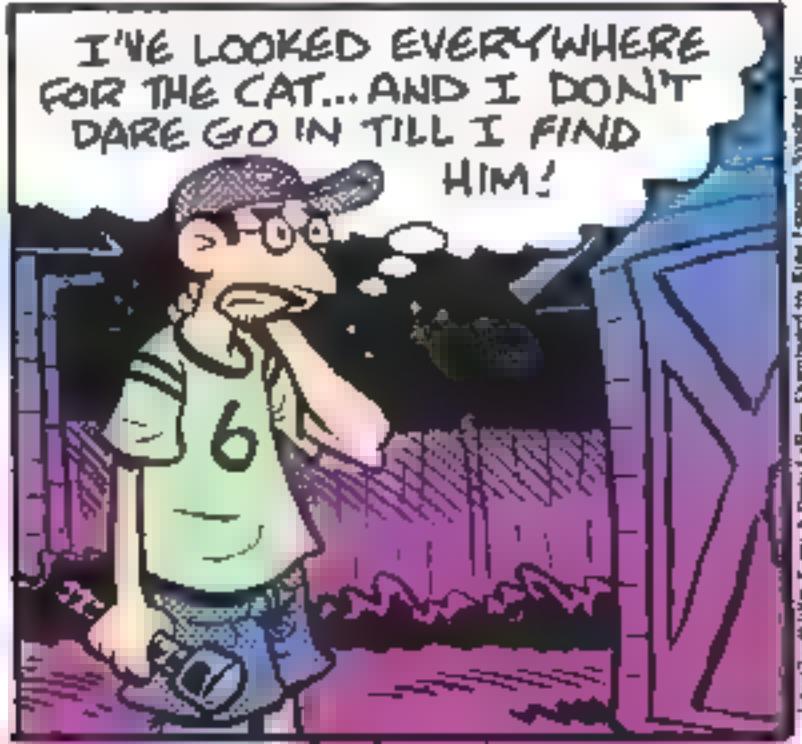
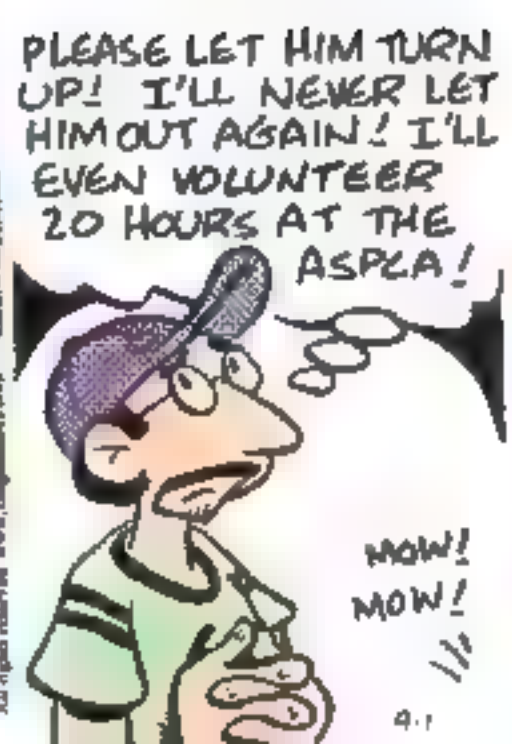
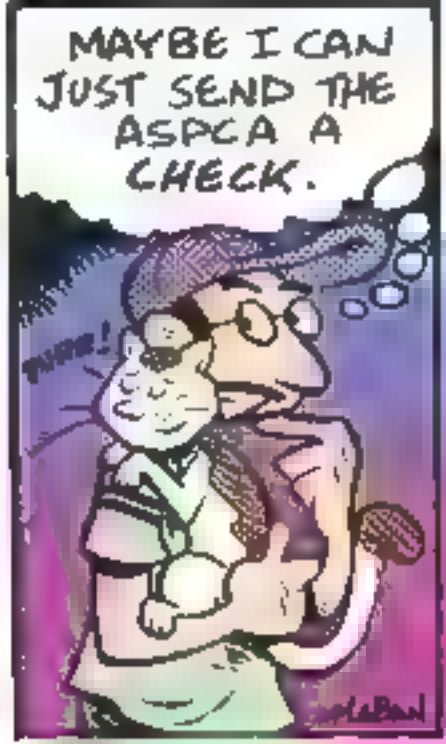
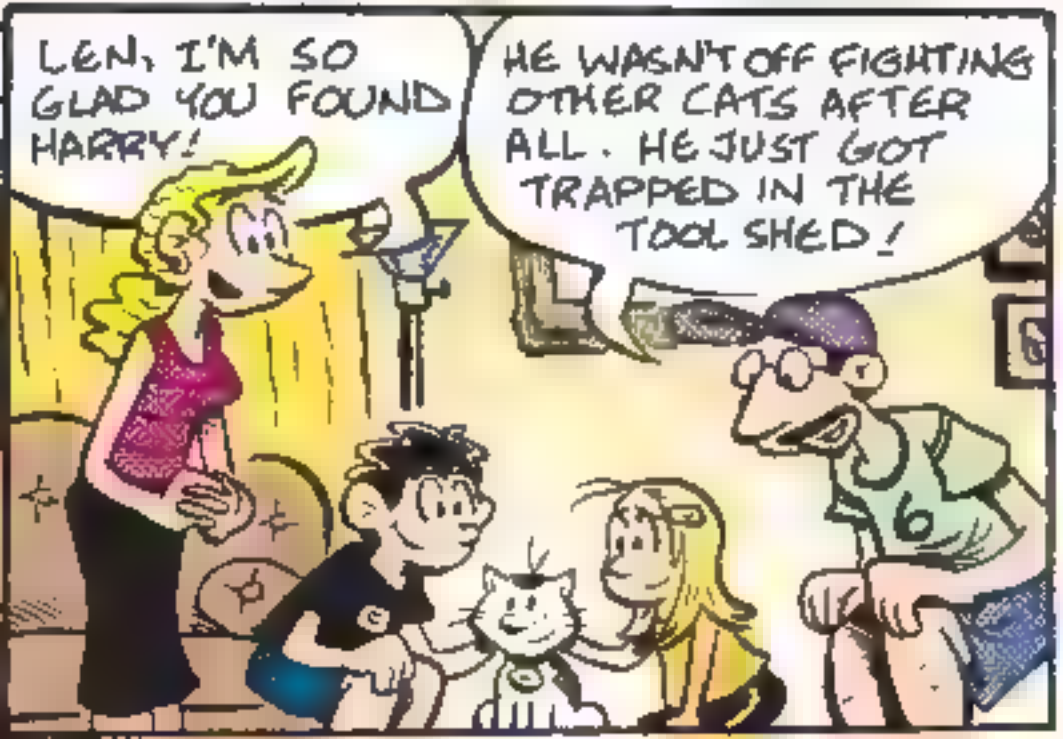



I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR THE CAT... AND I DON'T DARE GO IN TILL I FIND HIM!


PLEASE LET HIM TURN UP! I'LL NEVER LET HIM OUT AGAIN! I'LL EVEN VOLUNTEER 20 HOURS AT THE ASPCA!
MOW! MOW!

HARRY! YOU'VE BEEN STUCK IN THE TOOL SHED THIS WHOLE TIME!


MAYBE I CAN JUST SEND THE ASPCA A CHECK.


LEN, I'M SO GLAD YOU FOUND HARRY!
HE WASN'T OFF FIGHTING OTHER CATS AFTER ALL. HE JUST GOT TRAPPED IN THE TOOL SHED!

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM THIS?
THAT WE SHOULDN'T WORRY SO MUCH.

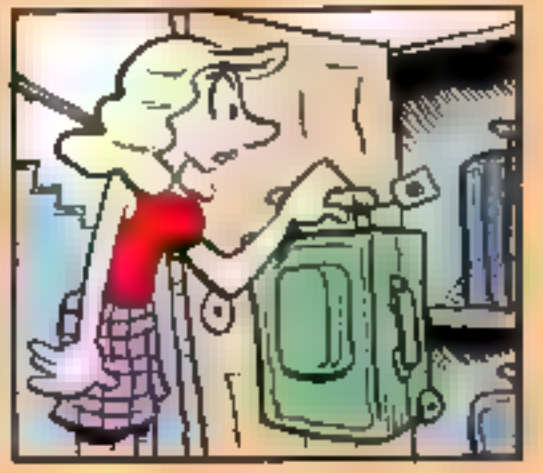
NOOO...
THAT WE SHOULD NEVER, EVER LET HIM OUT AGAIN.

# You Know Summer's OVER When...

THE POOL HAS A TARP OVER IT.

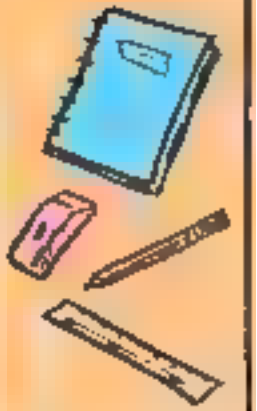
IT'S COLDER OUTSIDE THE THEATER THAN IN.

YOUR NEXT VACATION ISN'T UNTIL NEXT YEAR.



THERE'S FINALLY SOMETHING WORTH WATCHING ON TV.

YOU REALIZE EVERYTHING THE KIDS WORE THREE MONTHS AGO IS TOO SMALL.



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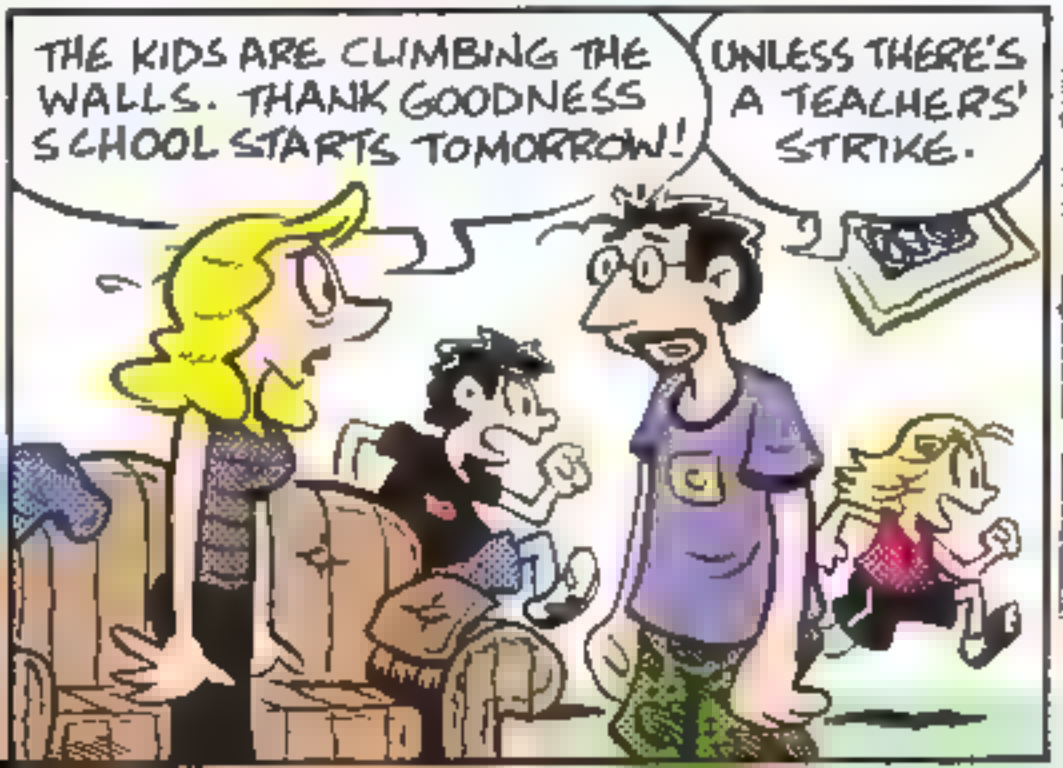
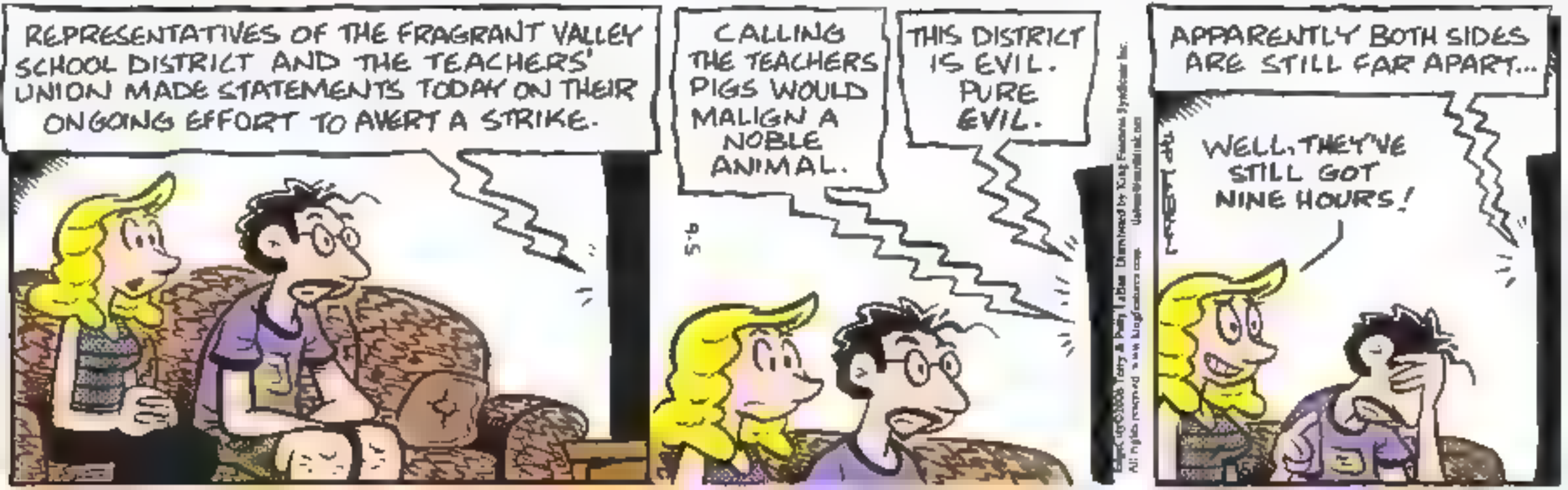
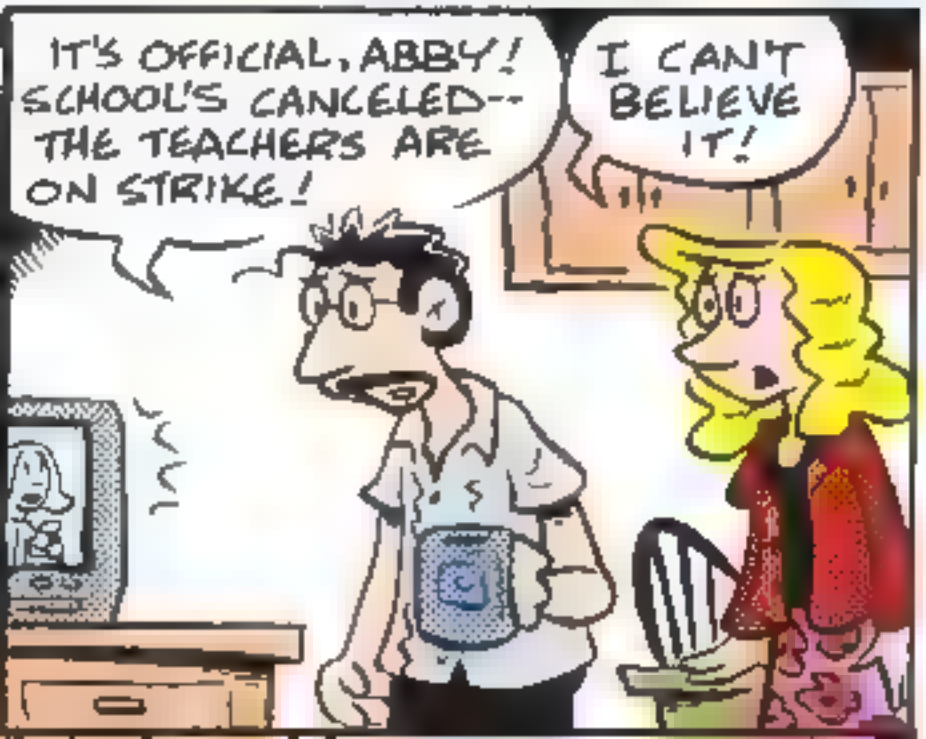

THE KIDS ARE CLIMBING THE WALLS. THANK GOODNESS SCHOOL STARTS TOMORROW!
UNLESS THERE'S A TEACHERS' STRIKE.

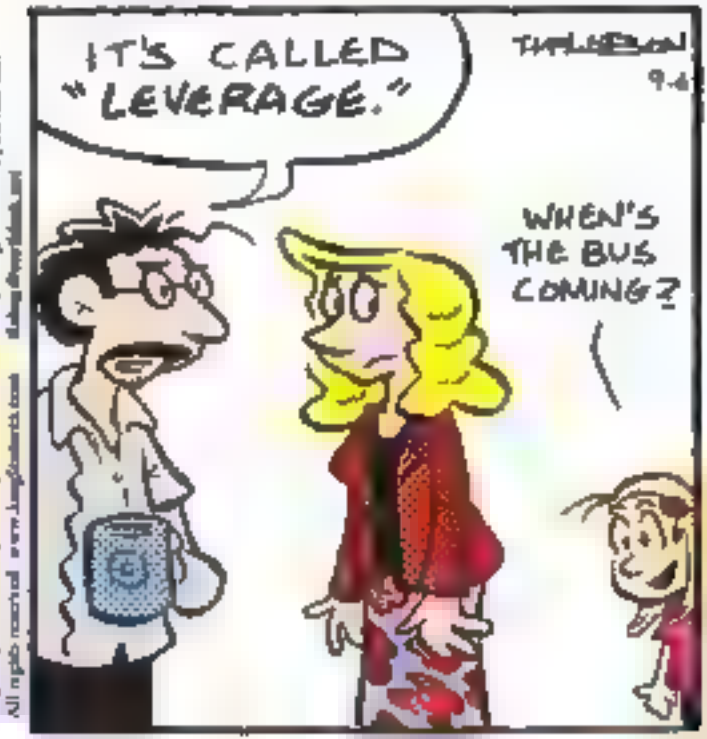
THERE WON'T BE A TEACHERS' STRIKE, LEN!
THEY HAVEN'T APPROVED A CONTRACT YET, ABBY. WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?

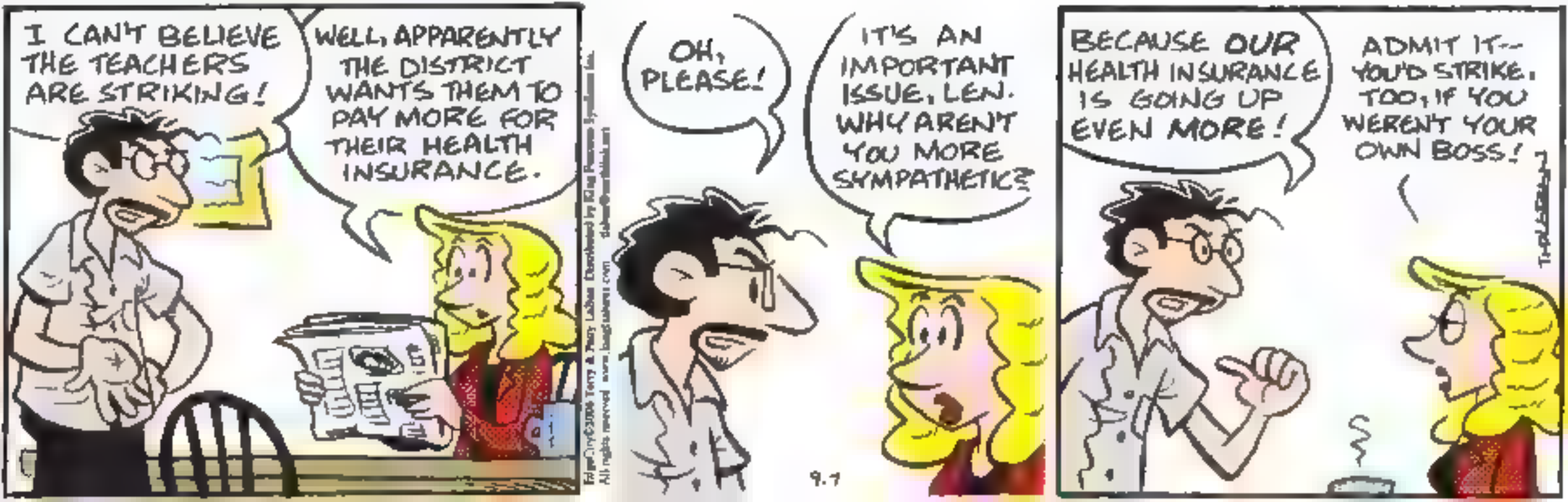
BECAUSE THERE CAN'T BE!
SMASH!
MOOOM!
9-4

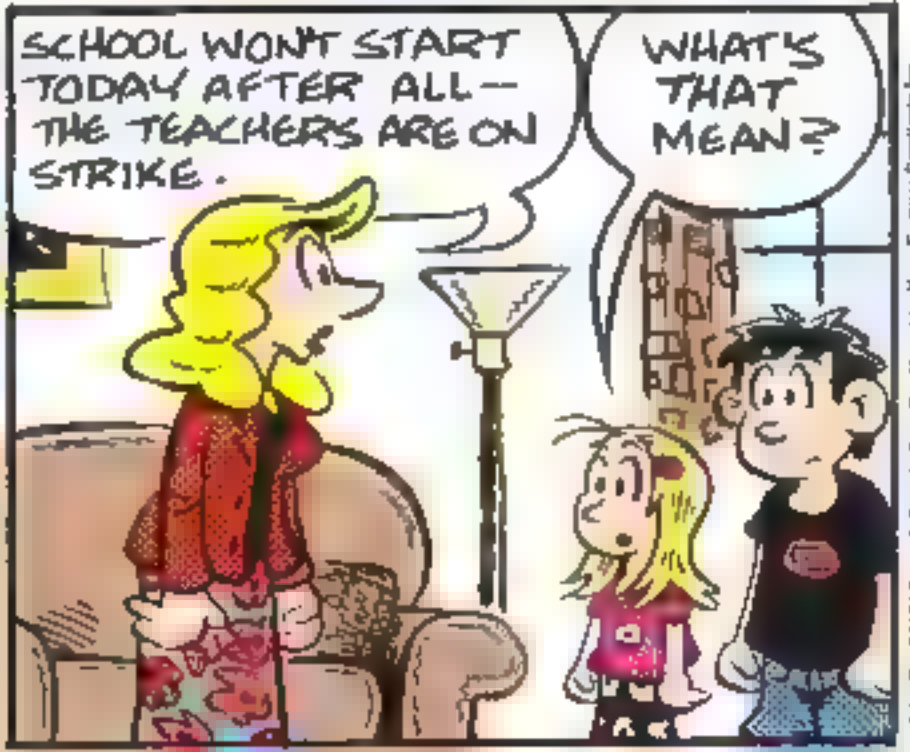

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRAGRANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE TEACHERS' UNION MADE STATEMENTS TODAY ON THEIR ONGOING EFFORT TO AVERT A STRIKE.
CALLING THE TEACHERS PIGS WOULD MALIGN A NOBLE ANIMAL.
THIS DISTRICT IS EVIL. PURE EVIL.
APPARENTLY BOTH SIDES ARE STILL FAR APART...
WELL, THEY'VE STILL GOT NINE HOURS!

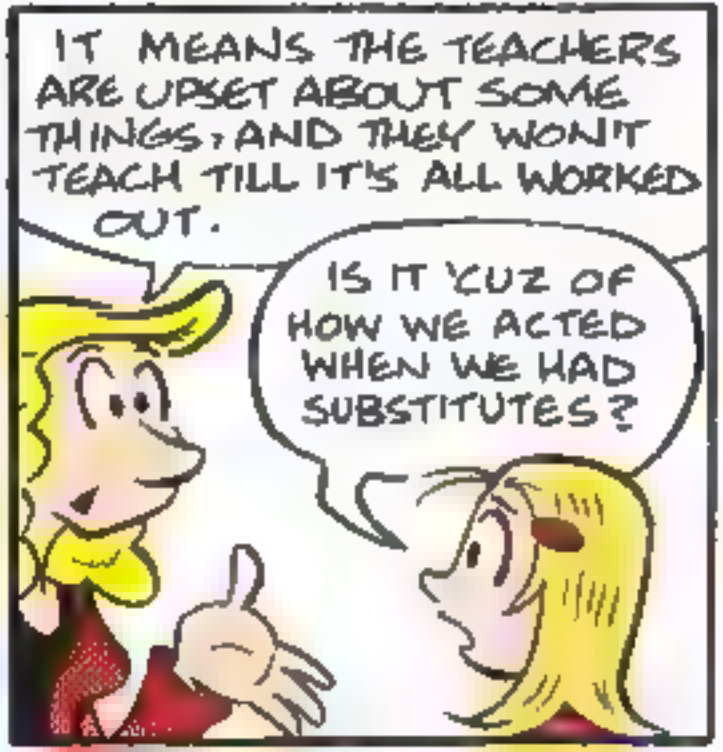

IT'S OFFICIAL, ABBY! SCHOOL'S CANCELED-- THE TEACHERS ARE ON STRIKE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

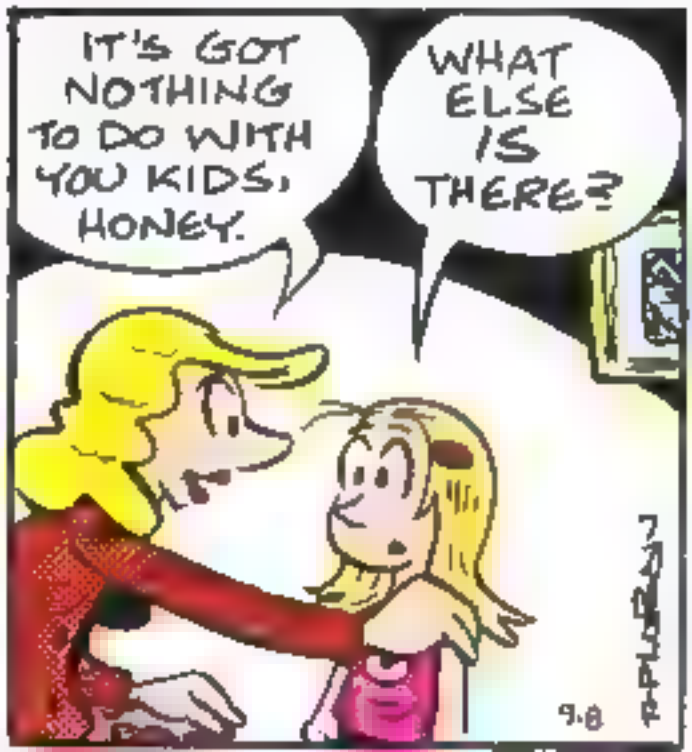
HOW CAN THEY DO THIS? DON'T THEY UNDERSTAND THE HAVOC IT'LL PLAY WITH PEOPLE'S SCHEDULES?
I THINK THEY DO...

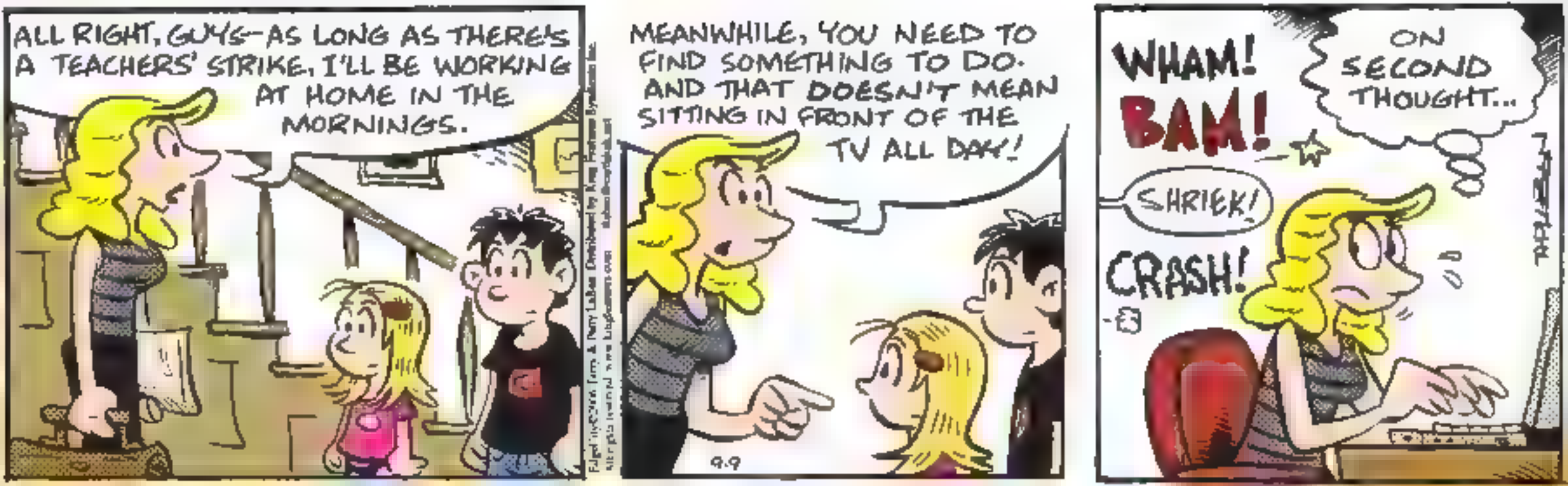

IT'S CALLED "LEVERAGE."
WHEN'S THE BUS COMING?

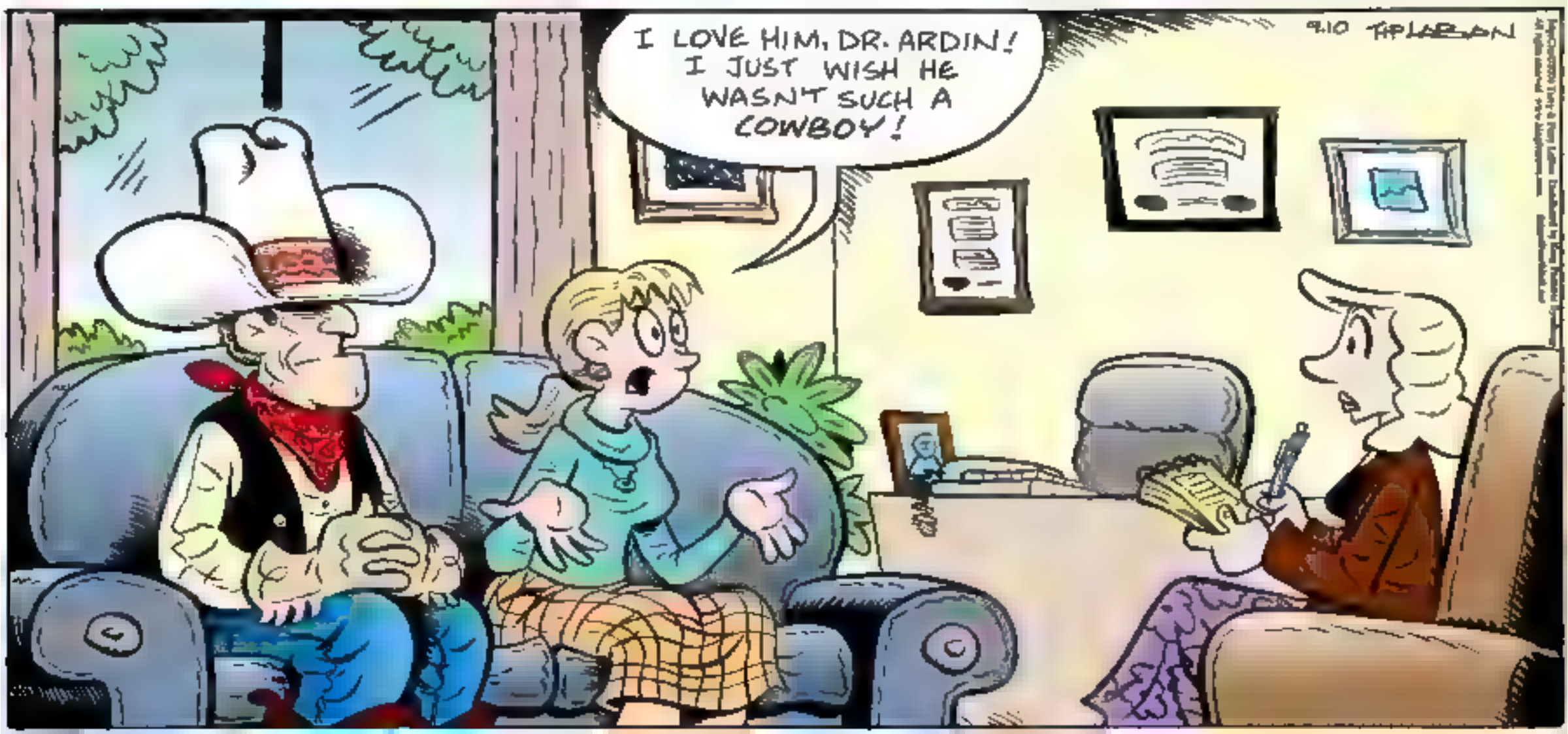

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE TEACHERS ARE STRIKING!
WELL, APPARENTLY THE DISTRICT WANTS THEM TO PAY MORE FOR THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE.
OH, PLEASE!
IT'S AN IMPORTANT ISSUE, LEN. WHY AREN'T YOU MORE SYMPATHETIC?
BECAUSE OUR HEALTH INSURANCE IS GOING UP EVEN MORE!
ADMIT IT-- YOU'D STRIKE, TOO, IF YOU WEREN'T YOUR OWN BOSS!
9-7

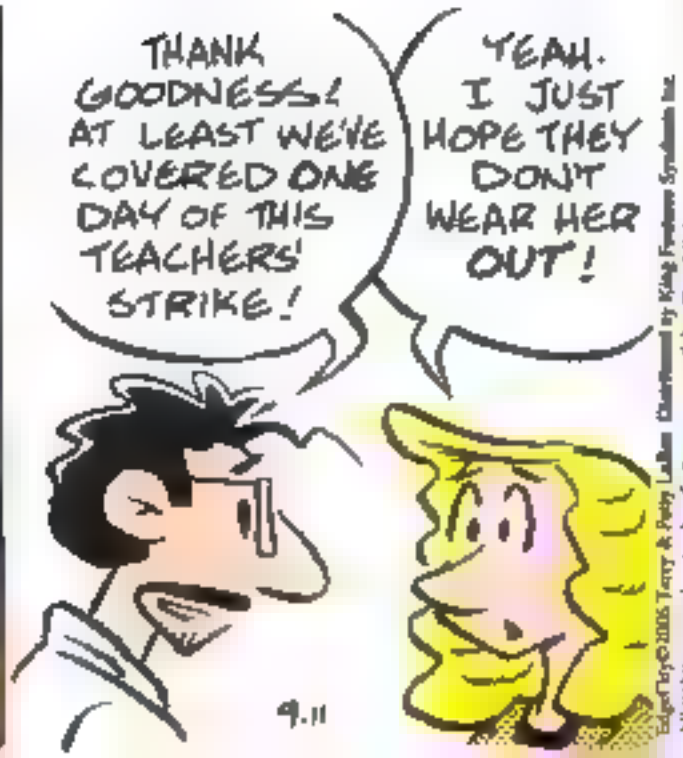

SCHOOL WON'T START TODAY AFTER ALL— THE TEACHERS ARE ON STRIKE.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?


IT MEANS THE TEACHERS ARE UPSET ABOUT SOME THINGS, AND THEY WON'T TEACH TILL IT'S ALL WORKED OUT.
IS IT 'CUZ OF HOW WE ACTED WHEN WE HAD SUBSTITUTES?


IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU KIDS, HONEY.
WHAT ELSE IS THERE?
9-8


ALL RIGHT, GUYS—AS LONG AS THERE'S A TEACHERS' STRIKE, I'LL BE WORKING AT HOME IN THE MORNINGS.
MEANWHILE, YOU NEED TO FIND SOMETHING TO DO. AND THAT DOESN'T MEAN SITTING IN FRONT OF THE TV ALL DAY!
9.9
WHAM!
BAM!
ON SECOND THOUGHT...
SHRIEK!
CRASH!


I LOVE HIM, DR. ARDIN! I JUST WISH HE WASN'T SUCH A COWBOY!
9.10 TIP LARSON

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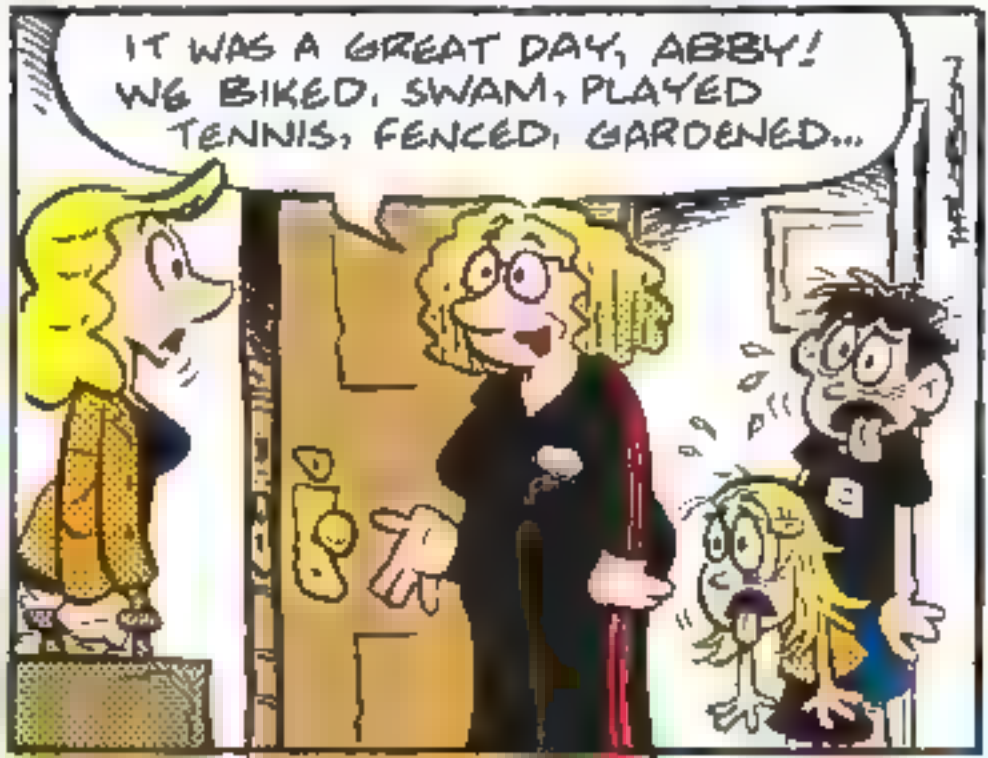
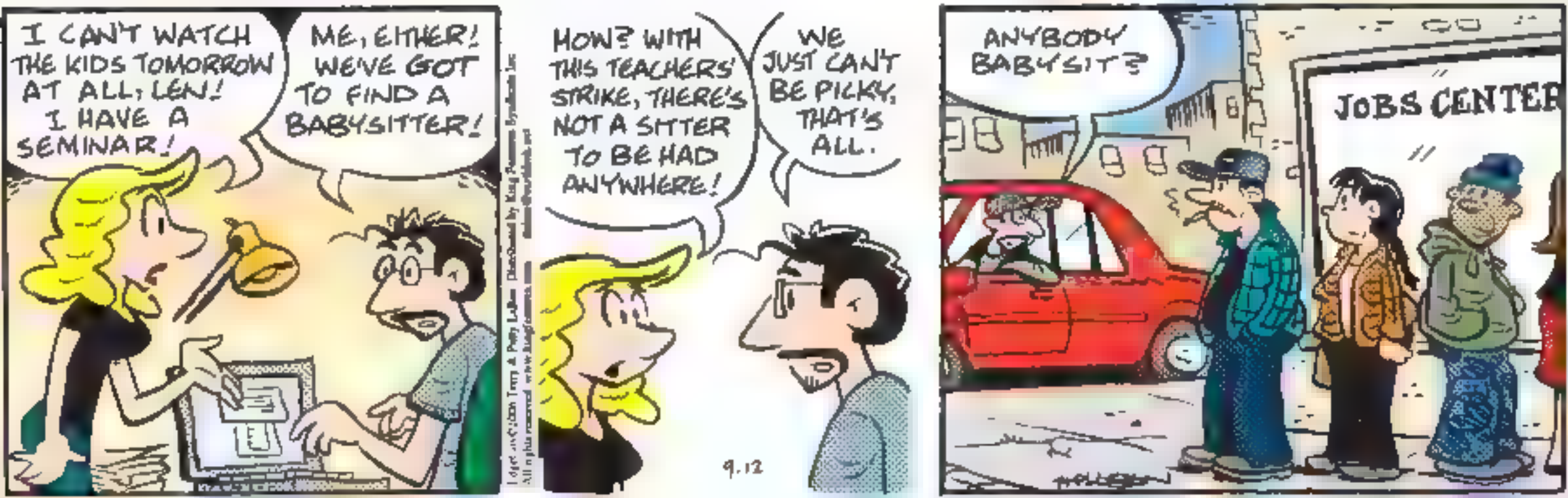
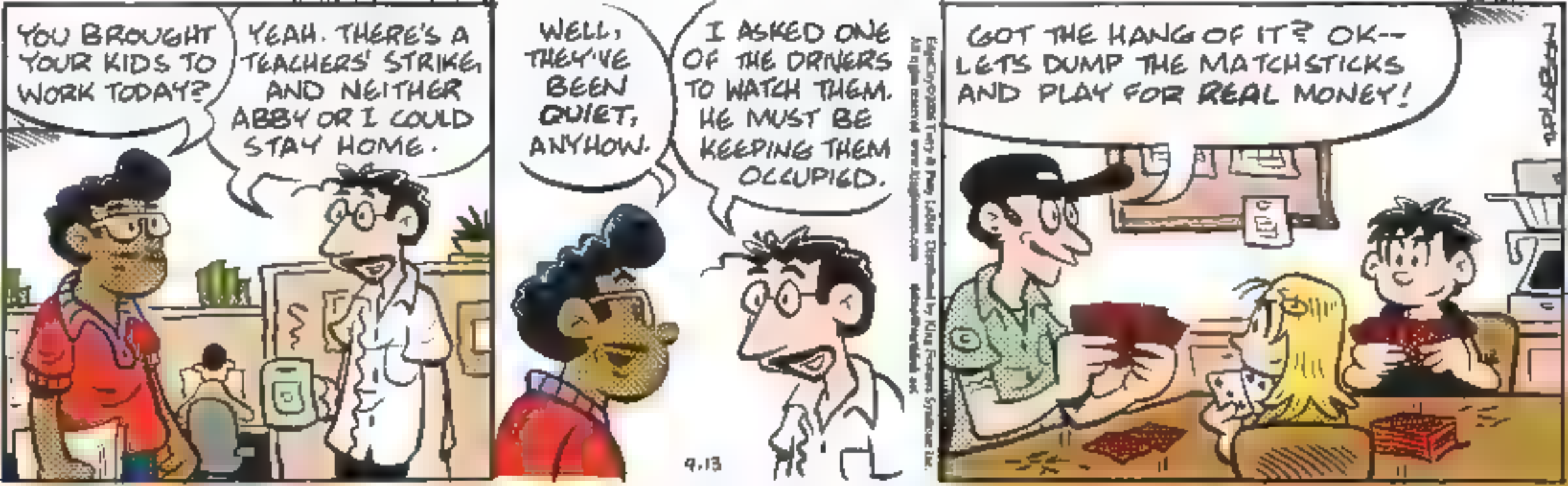
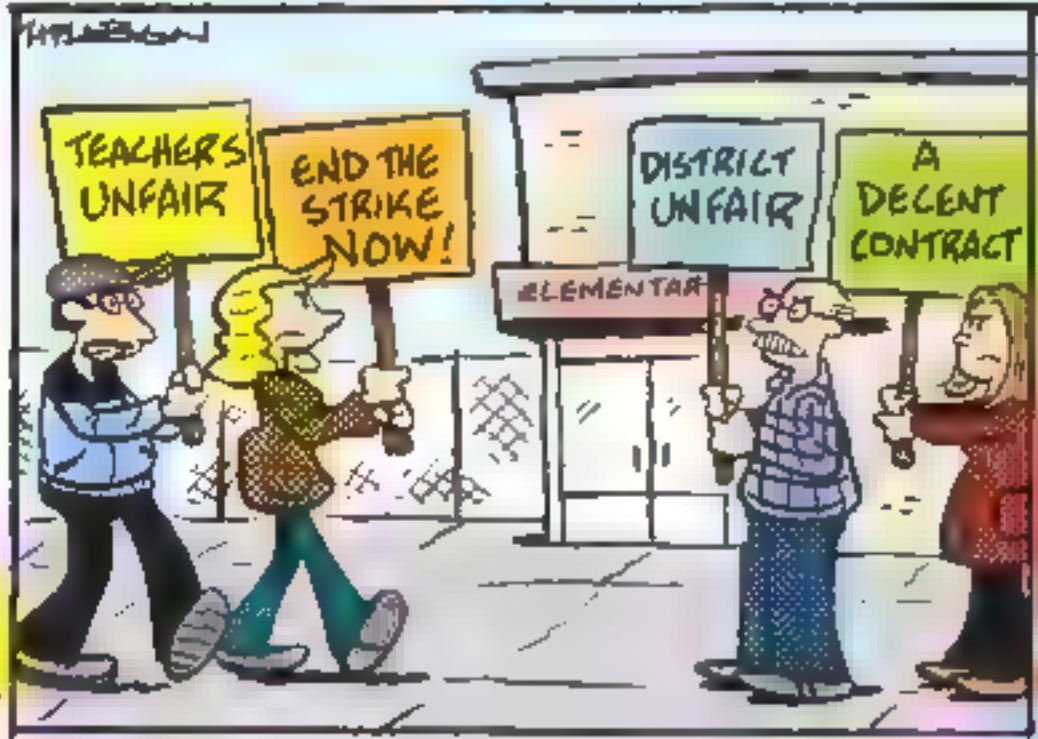


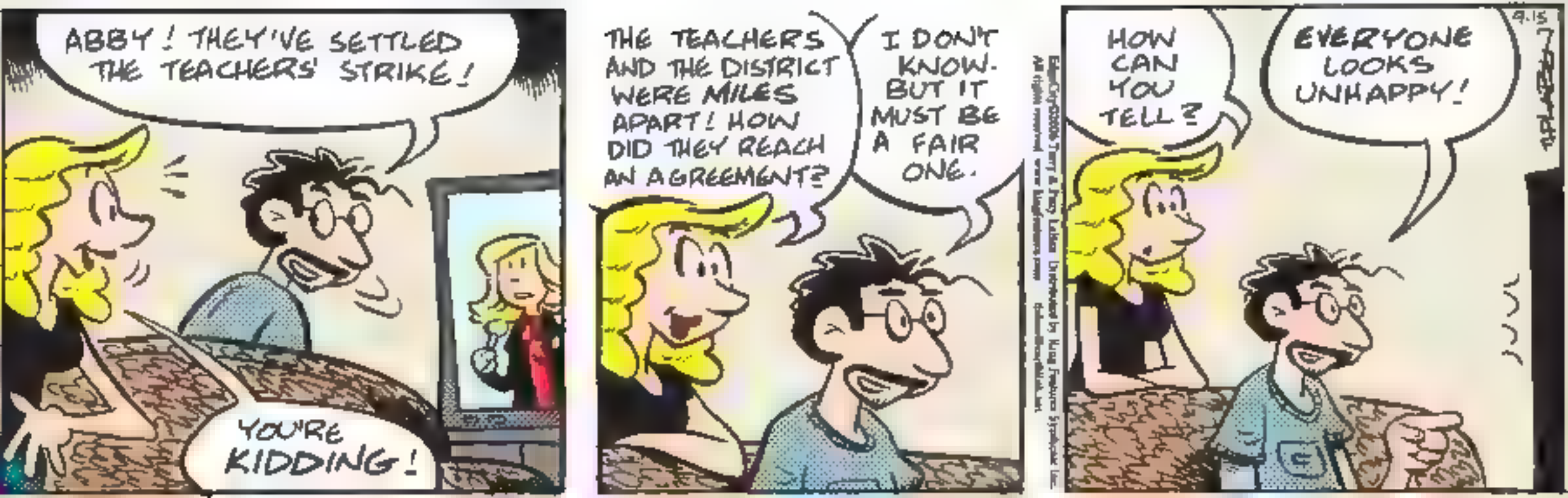

I CAN'T WATCH THE KIDS TOMORROW AT ALL, LEN! I HAVE A SEMINAR!
ME, EITHER! WE'VE GOT TO FIND A BABYSITTER!
HOW? WITH THIS TEACHERS' STRIKE, THERE'S NOT A SITTER TO BE HAD ANYWHERE!
WE JUST CAN'T BE PICKY, THAT'S ALL.
9.12
ANYBODY BABYSIT?
JOBS CENTER

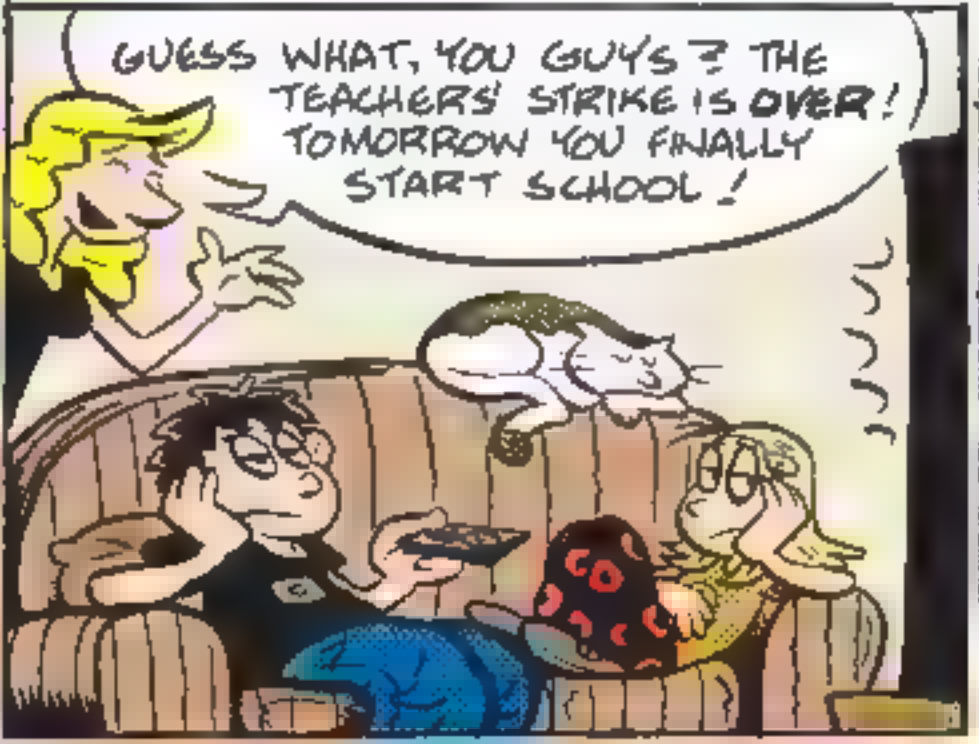

YOU BROUGHT YOUR KIDS TO WORK TODAY?
YEAH. THERE'S A TEACHERS' STRIKE, AND NEITHER ABBY OR I COULD STAY HOME.
WELL, THEY'VE BEEN QUIET, ANYHOW.
I ASKED ONE OF THE DRIVERS TO WATCH THEM. HE MUST BE KEEPING THEM OCCUPIED.
9.13
GOT THE HANG OF IT? OK-- LETS DUMP THE MATCHSTICKS AND PLAY FOR REAL MONEY!

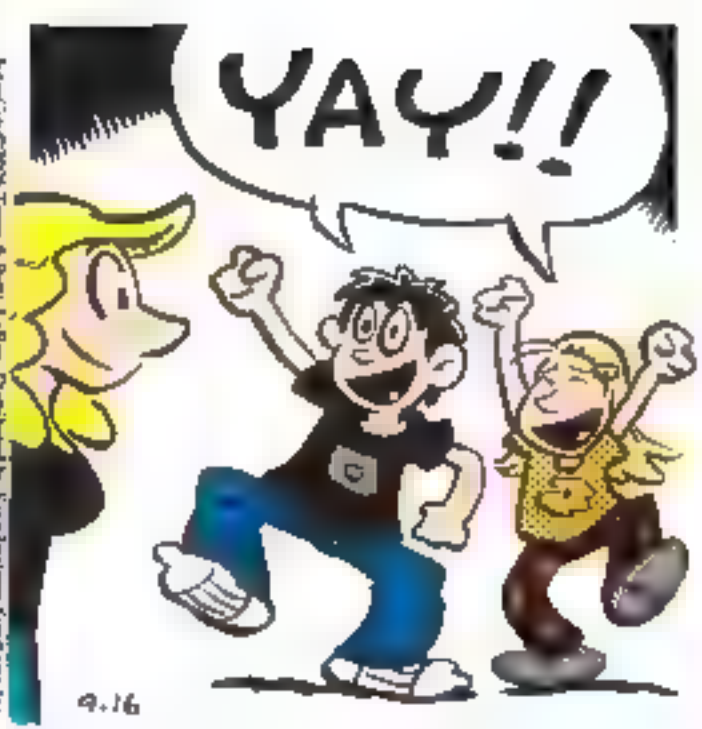
MAN! ANOTHER WEEK'S ALMOST OVER, AND THE TEACHERS ARE STILL ON STRIKE!
I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!

I WAS SYMPATHETIC AT FIRST, BUT IT'S GONE ON TOO LONG! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
9.14


TEACHERS UNFAIR
END THE STRIKE NOW!
DISTRICT UNFAIR
A DECENT CONTRACT
ELEMENTAR


ABBY! THEY'VE SETTLED THE TEACHERS' STRIKE!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
THE TEACHERS AND THE DISTRICT WERE MILES APART! HOW DID THEY REACH AN AGREEMENT?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT IT MUST BE A FAIR ONE.
HOW CAN YOU TELL?
EVERYONE LOOKS UNHAPPY!
9.15


GUESS WHAT, YOU GUYS? THE TEACHERS' STRIKE IS OVER! TOMORROW YOU FINALLY START SCHOOL!


YAY!!
9.16

WAIT A MINUTE... WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO SAY THAT!
IT'S OK-- I WON'T TELL.

LEN, SLOW DOWN!

C'MON, ABBY! I'M BARELY OVER THE SPEED LIMIT!

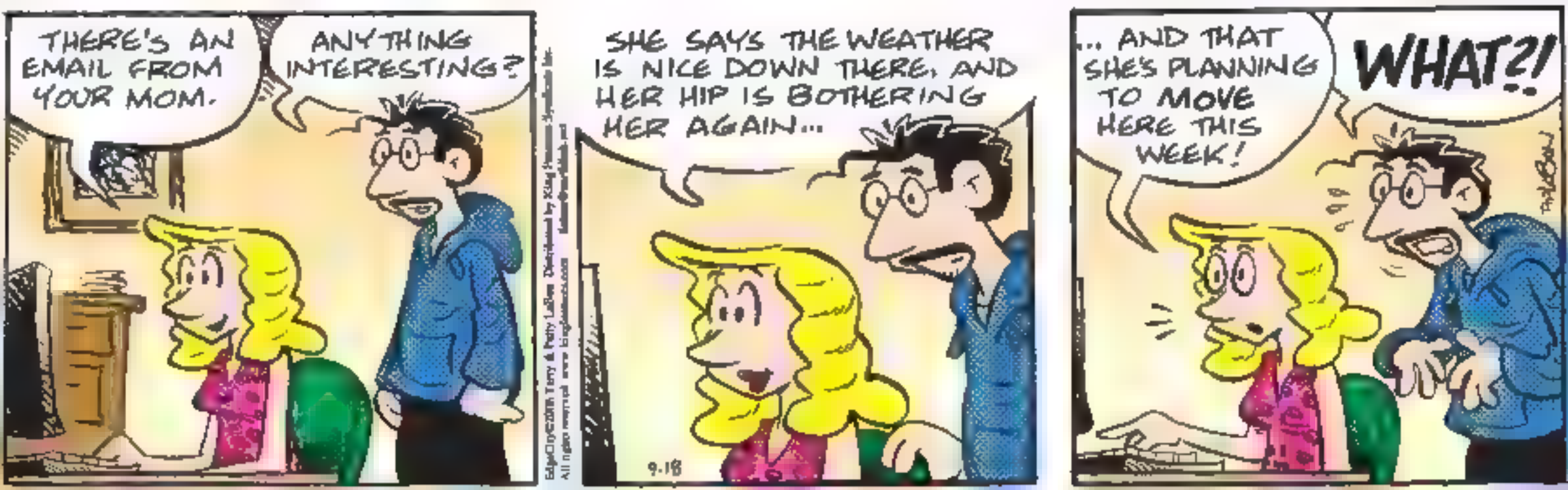
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T BACKSEAT DRIVE! IT ONLY DISTRACTS ME!

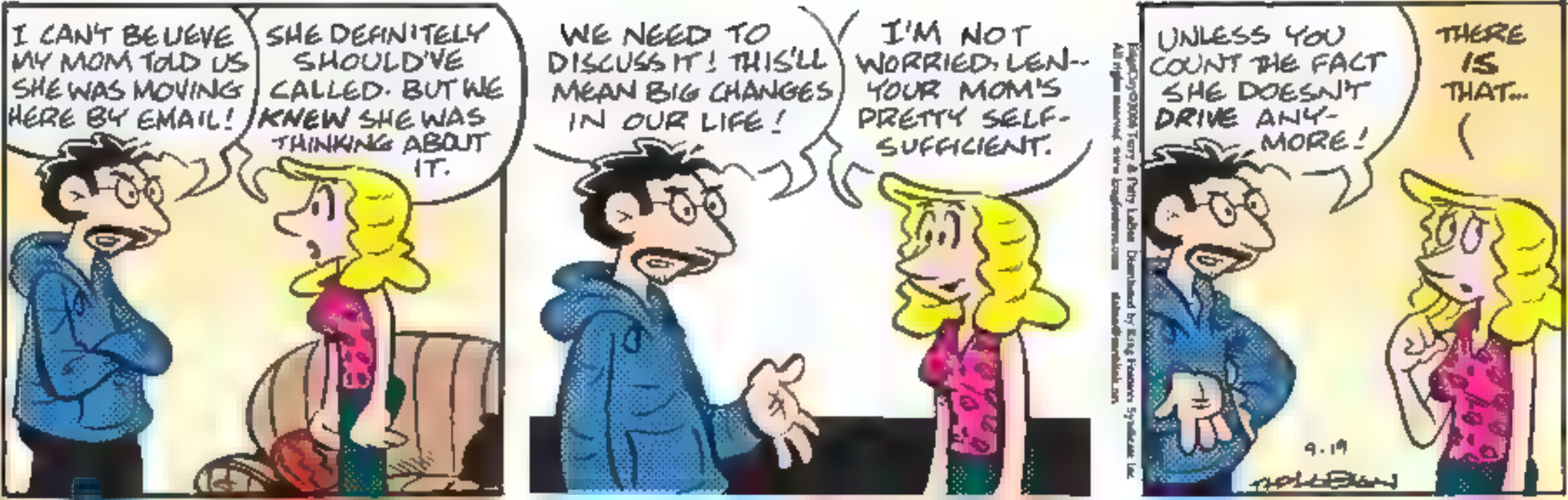
WELL, YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO JUST SIT QUIETLY WHILE YOU DRIVE LIKE A MANIAC!

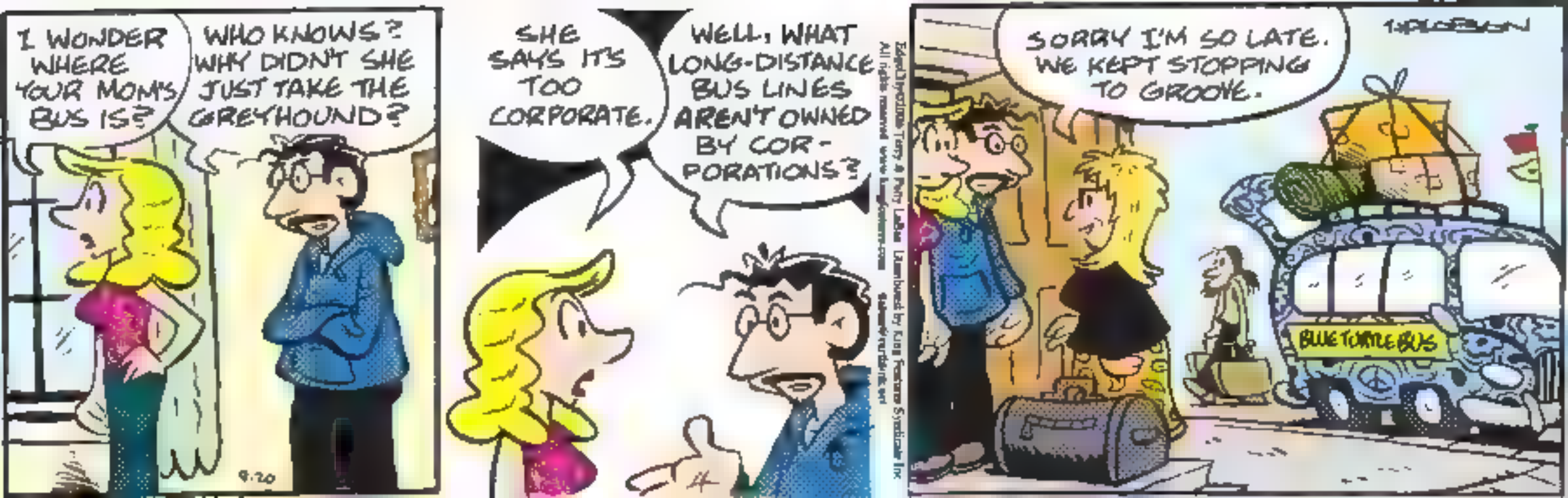
LOOK, IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WAY I'M DRIVING, THEN YOU DO IT!

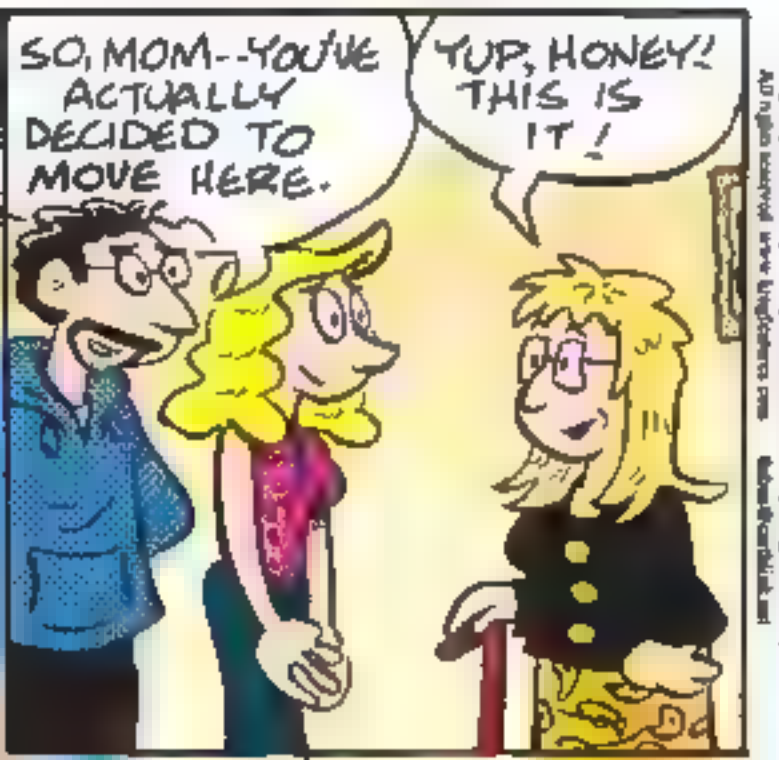
THAT'D BE FINE!

SPEED UP, ABBY! YOU'LL GET US IN AN ACCIDENT GOING THIS SLOW!


THERE'S AN EMAIL FROM YOUR MOM.
ANYTHING INTERESTING?
SHE SAYS THE WEATHER IS NICE DOWN THERE, AND HER HIP IS BOTHERING HER AGAIN...
9-18
... AND THAT SHE'S PLANNING TO MOVE HERE THIS WEEK!
WHAT?!


I CAN'T BELIEVE MY MOM TOLD US SHE WAS MOVING HERE BY EMAIL!
SHE DEFINITELY SHOULD'VE CALLED. BUT WE KNEW SHE WAS THINKING ABOUT IT.
WE NEED TO DISCUSS IT! THIS'LL MEAN BIG CHANGES IN OUR LIFE!
I'M NOT WORRIED, LEN-- YOUR MOM'S PRETTY SELF-SUFFICIENT.
UNLESS YOU COUNT THE FACT SHE DOESN'T DRIVE ANY-MORE!
THERE IS THAT...
9.19


I WONDER WHERE YOUR MOM'S BUS IS?
WHO KNOWS? WHY DIDN'T SHE JUST TAKE THE GREYHOUND?
SHE SAYS IT'S TOO CORPORATE.
WELL, WHAT LONG-DISTANCE BUS LINES AREN'T OWNED BY CORPORATIONS?
SORRY I'M SO LATE. WE KEPT STOPPING TO GROOVE.
BLUE TURTLE BUS

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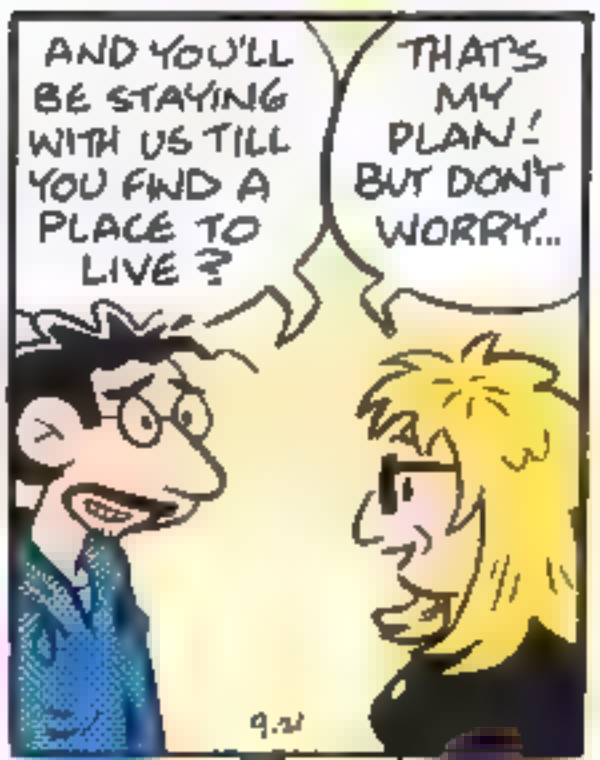
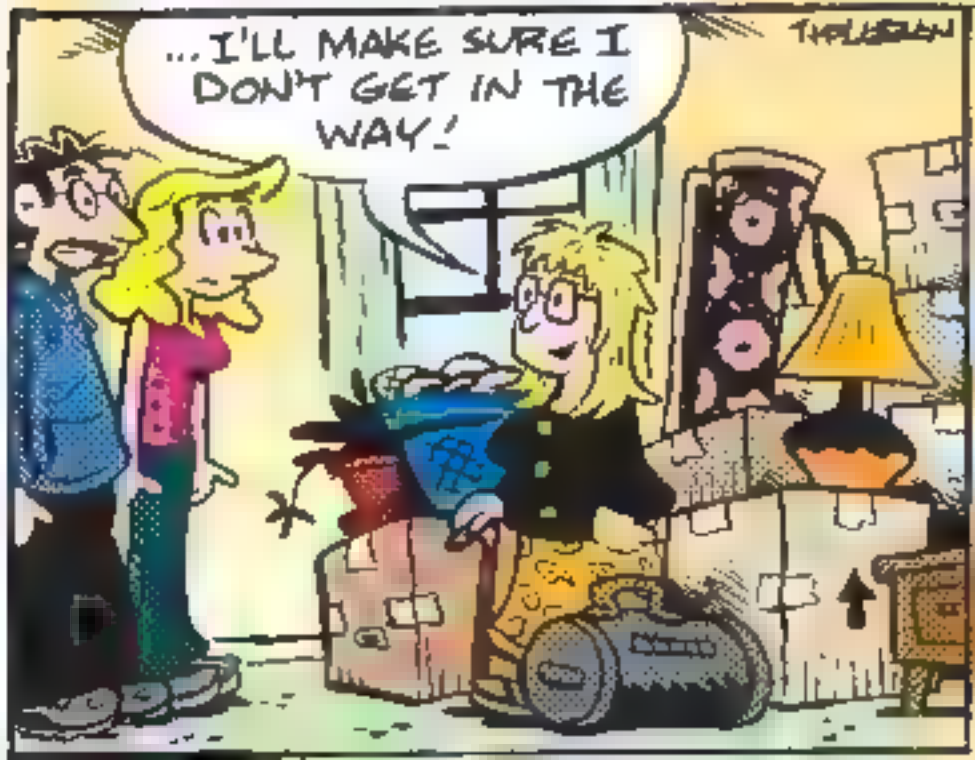
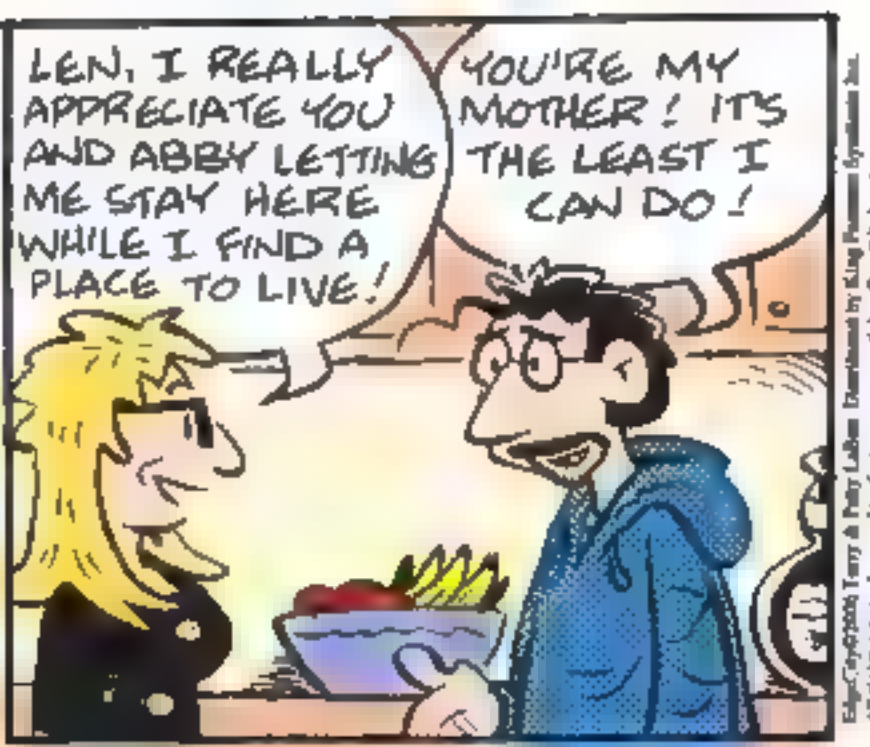
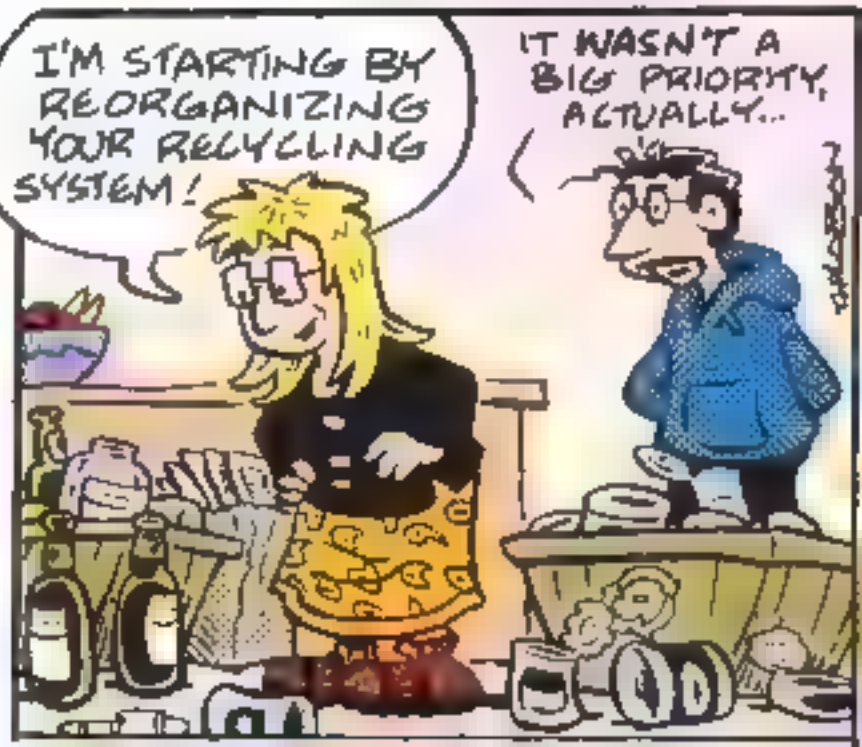
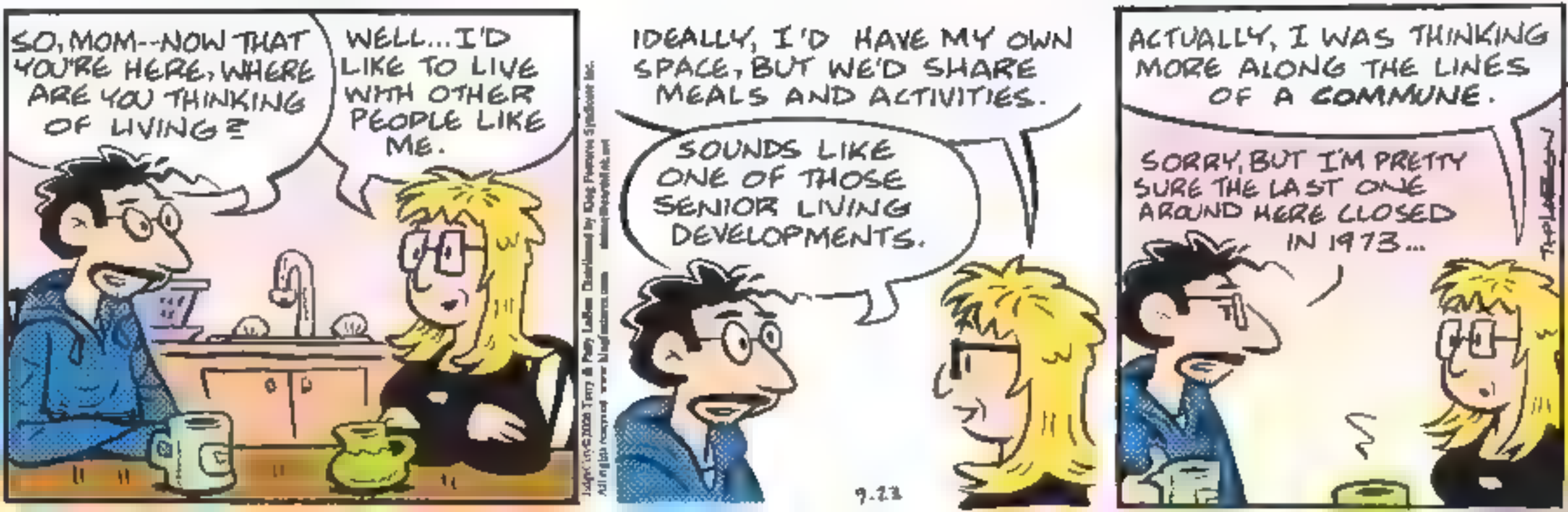


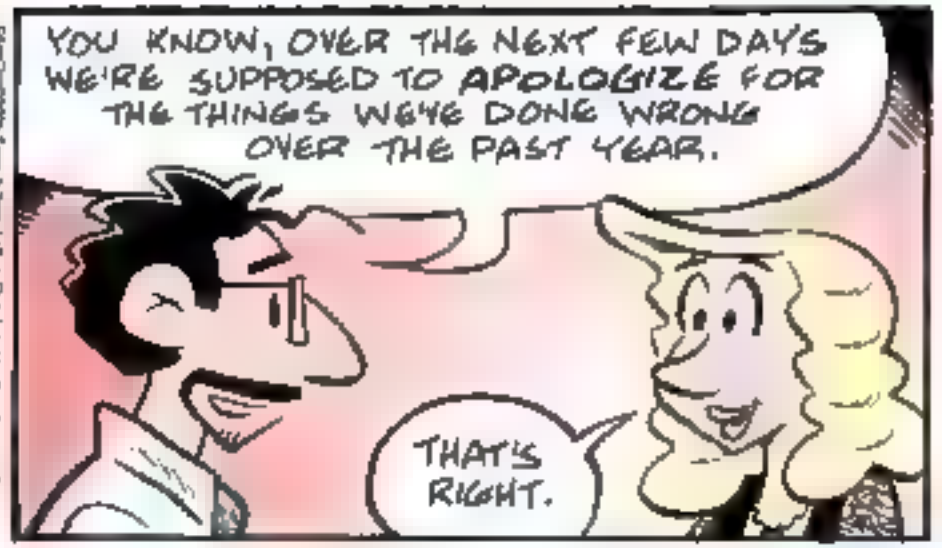

LEN, I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU AND ABBY LETTING ME STAY HERE WHILE I FIND A PLACE TO LIVE!
YOU'RE MY MOTHER! IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO!

WELL, I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN. WHILE I'M HERE, I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP OUT!


I'M STARTING BY REORGANIZING YOUR RECYCLING SYSTEM!
IT WASN'T A BIG PRIORITY, ACTUALLY...

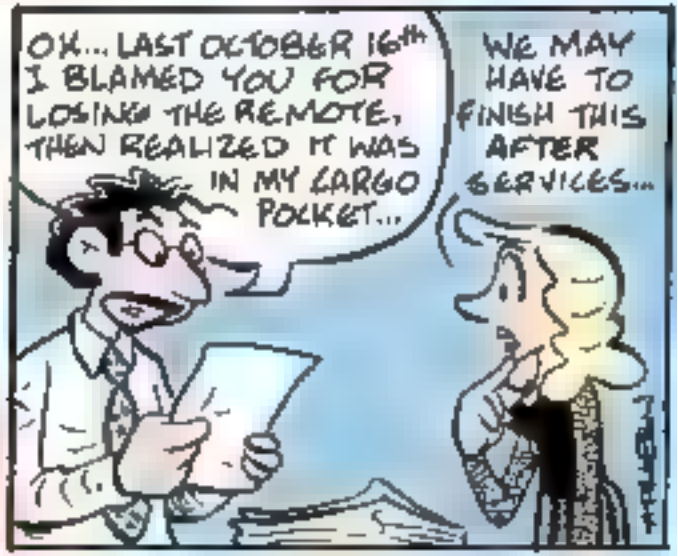

SO, MOM--NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WHERE ARE YOU THINKING OF LIVING?
WELL...I'D LIKE TO LIVE WITH OTHER PEOPLE LIKE ME.
IDEALLY, I'D HAVE MY OWN SPACE, BUT WE'D SHARE MEALS AND ACTIVITIES.
SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF THOSE SENIOR LIVING DEVELOPMENTS.
ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF A COMMUNE.
SORRY, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE THE LAST ONE AROUND HERE CLOSED IN 1973...
9.23

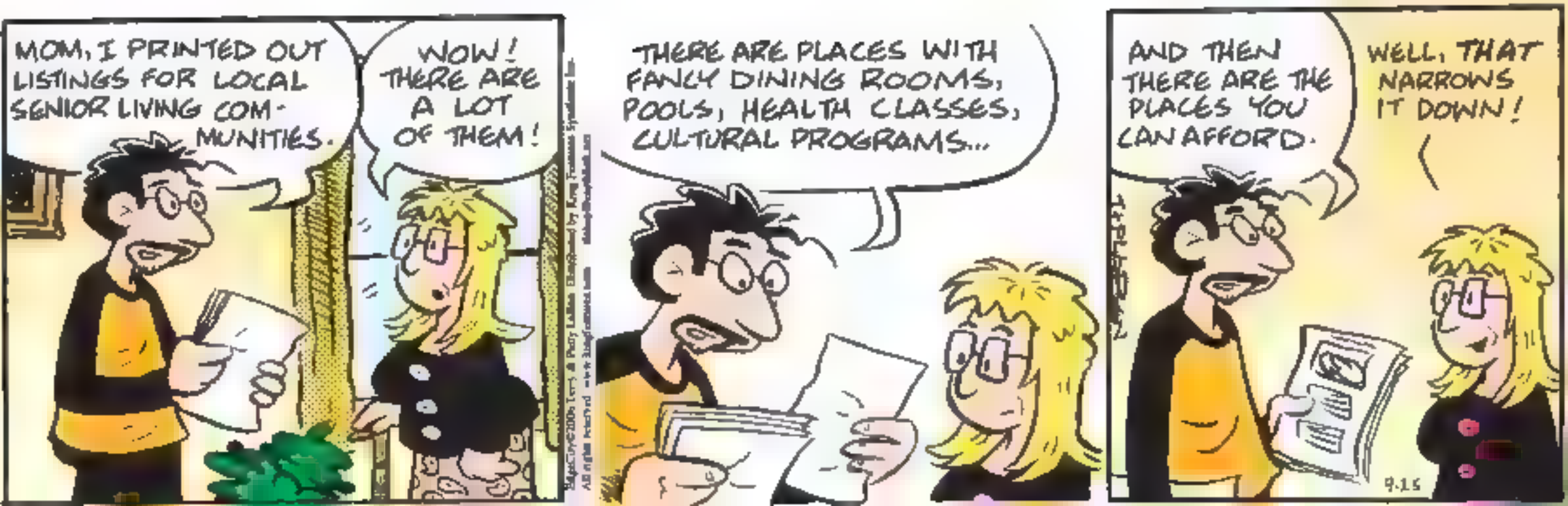
IT'S ROSH HASHANAH AGAIN, ABBY.
YEAH--HAPPY JEWISH NEW YEAR!


YOU KNOW, OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE THINGS WE'VE DONE WRONG OVER THE PAST YEAR.
THAT'S RIGHT.

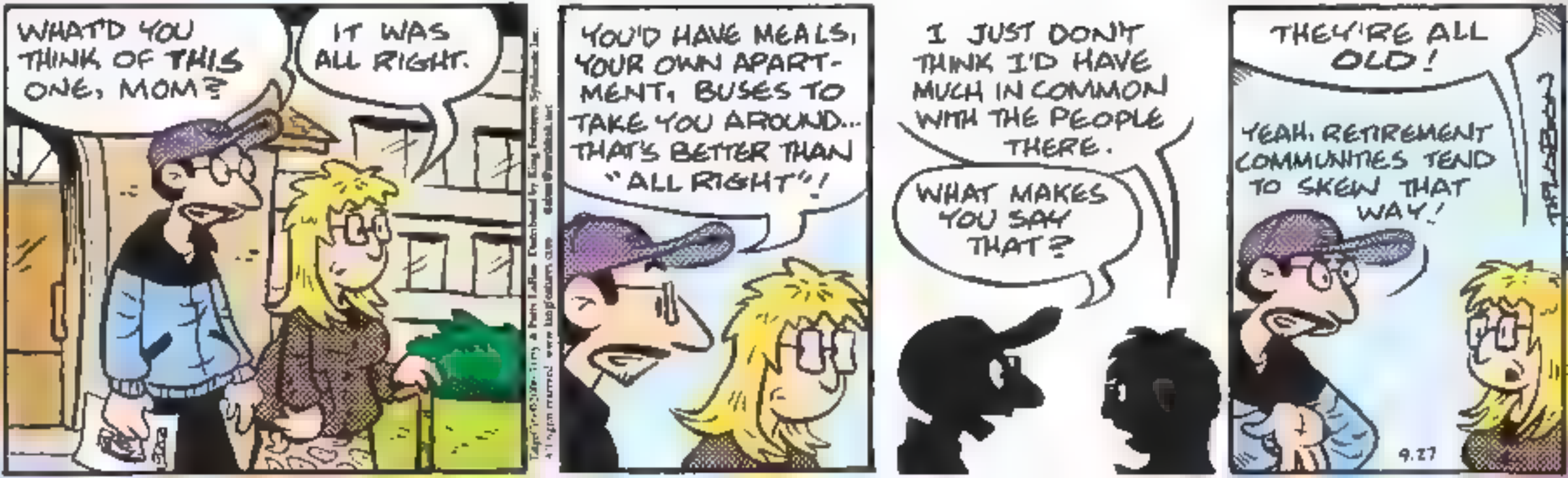
WELL, I'VE REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT THIS TIME. I EVEN MADE SOME LISTS. COULD I START WITH YOURS?
SURE, HONEY! THAT'S REALLY SWEET!

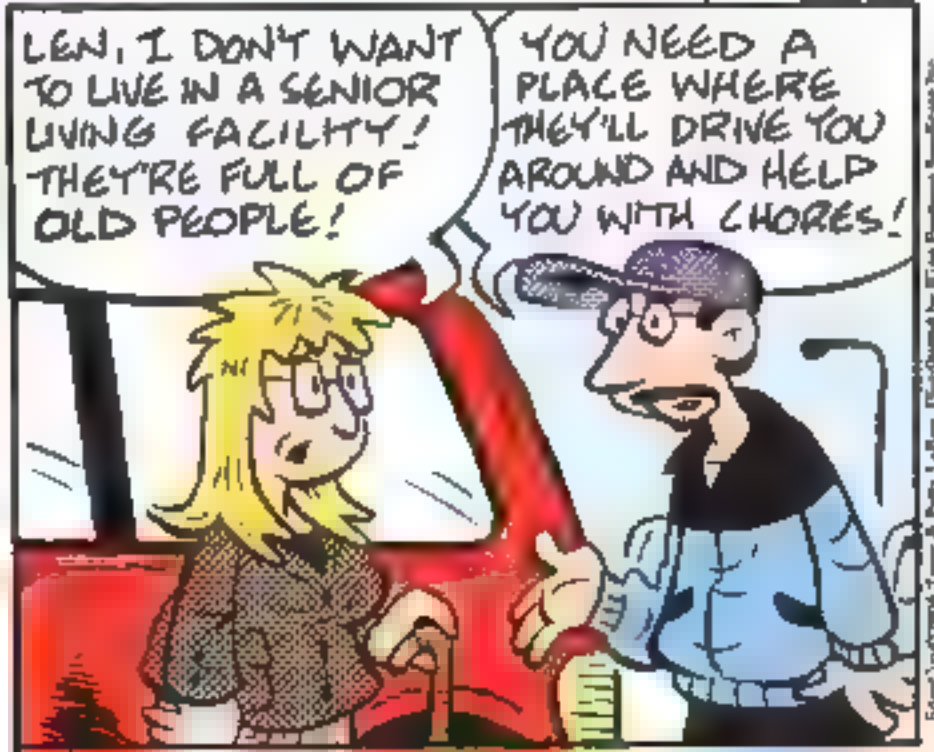
WOMP!

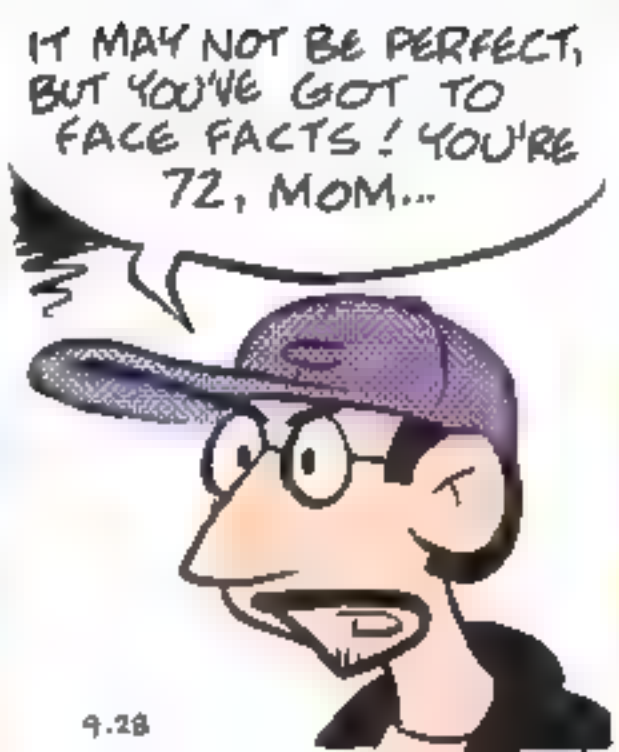

OK... LAST OCTOBER 16th I BLAMED YOU FOR LOSING THE REMOTE, THEN REALIZED IT WAS IN MY CARGO POCKET...
WE MAY HAVE TO FINISH THIS AFTER SERVICES...

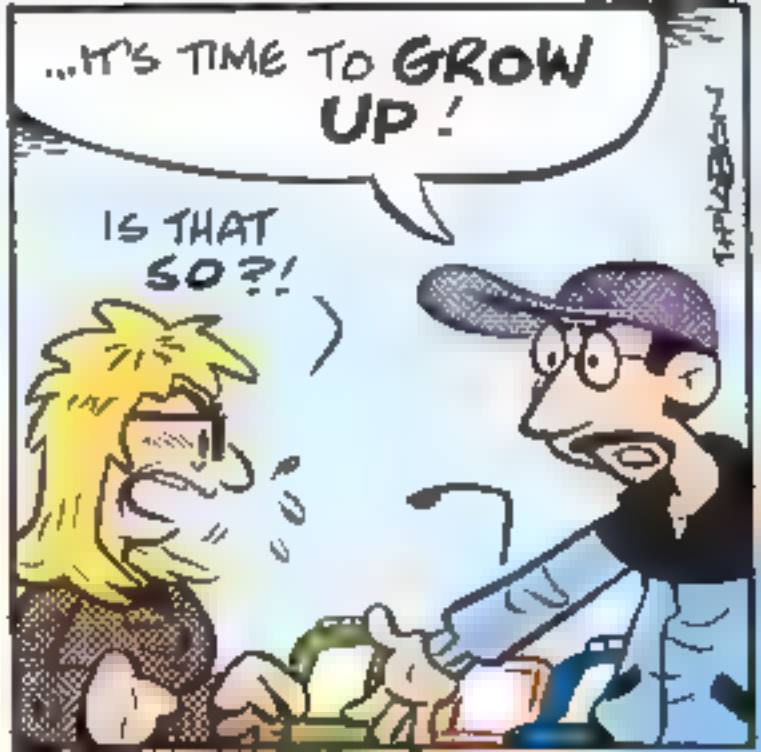

MOM, I PRINTED OUT LISTINGS FOR LOCAL SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES.
WOW! THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM!
THERE ARE PLACES WITH FANCY DINING ROOMS, POOLS, HEALTH CLASSES, CULTURAL PROGRAMS...
AND THEN THERE ARE THE PLACES YOU CAN AFFORD.
WELL, THAT NARROWS IT DOWN!
9.15

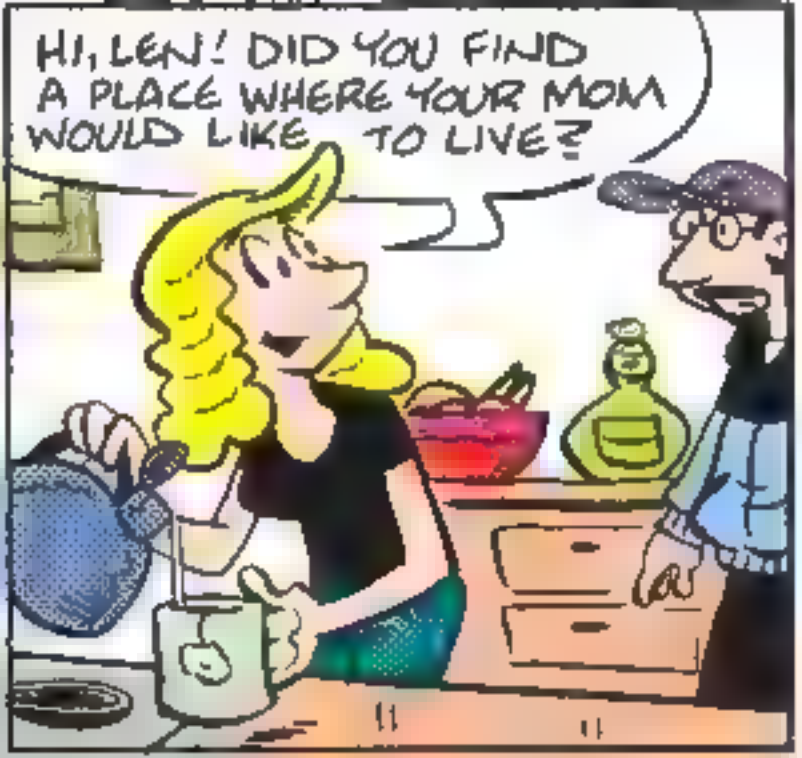
SO, THAT'S OUR FACILITY, MRS. ARDIN. I THINK WE OFFER THE VERY BEST IN SENIOR LIVING!
I THINK THIS'D BE A GREAT PLACE FOR YOU TO LIVE, MOM.
MAYBE. BUT I'D LIKE TO ASK A FEW QUESTIONS.
WHAT'S THE PLACE LIKE POLITICALLY? DO PEOPLE HERE GIVE A DARN ABOUT THE MESS THIS ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING?
WELL, WE CAN CROSS THIS ONE OFF THE LIST!
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HE WAS A REPUBLICAN?

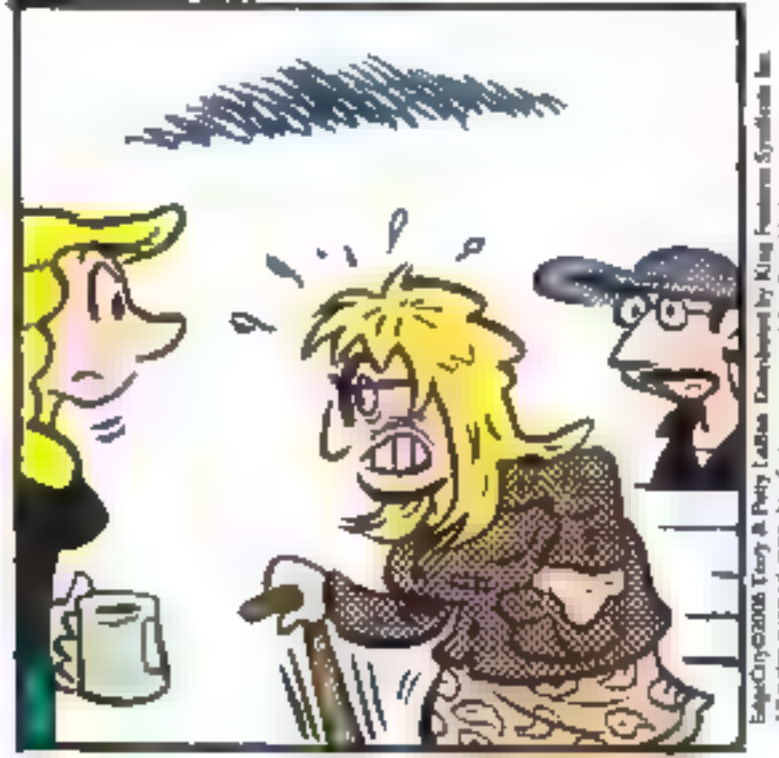

WHAT'D YOU THINK OF THIS ONE, MOM?
IT WAS ALL RIGHT.
YOU'D HAVE MEALS, YOUR OWN APARTMENT, BUSES TO TAKE YOU AROUND... THAT'S BETTER THAN "ALL RIGHT"!
I JUST DON'T THINK I'D HAVE MUCH IN COMMON WITH THE PEOPLE THERE.
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
THEY'RE ALL OLD!
YEAH, RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES TEND TO SKEW THAT WAY!
9.27


LEN, I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A SENIOR LIVING FACILITY! THEY'RE FULL OF OLD PEOPLE!
YOU NEED A PLACE WHERE THEY'LL DRIVE YOU AROUND AND HELP YOU WITH CHORES!


IT MAY NOT BE PERFECT, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO FACE FACTS! YOU'RE 72, MOM...
9.28


...IT'S TIME TO GROW UP!
IS THAT SO?!



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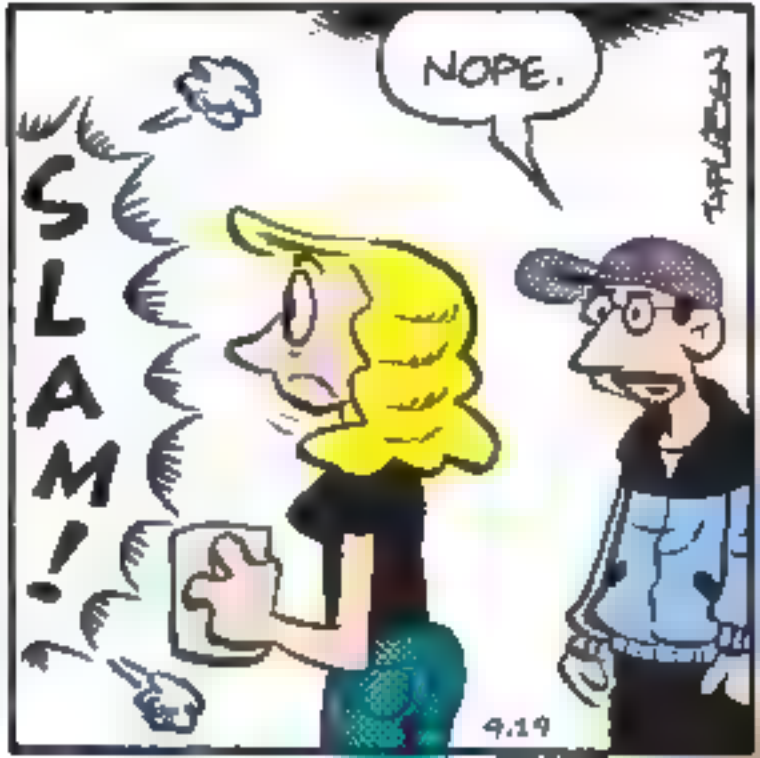
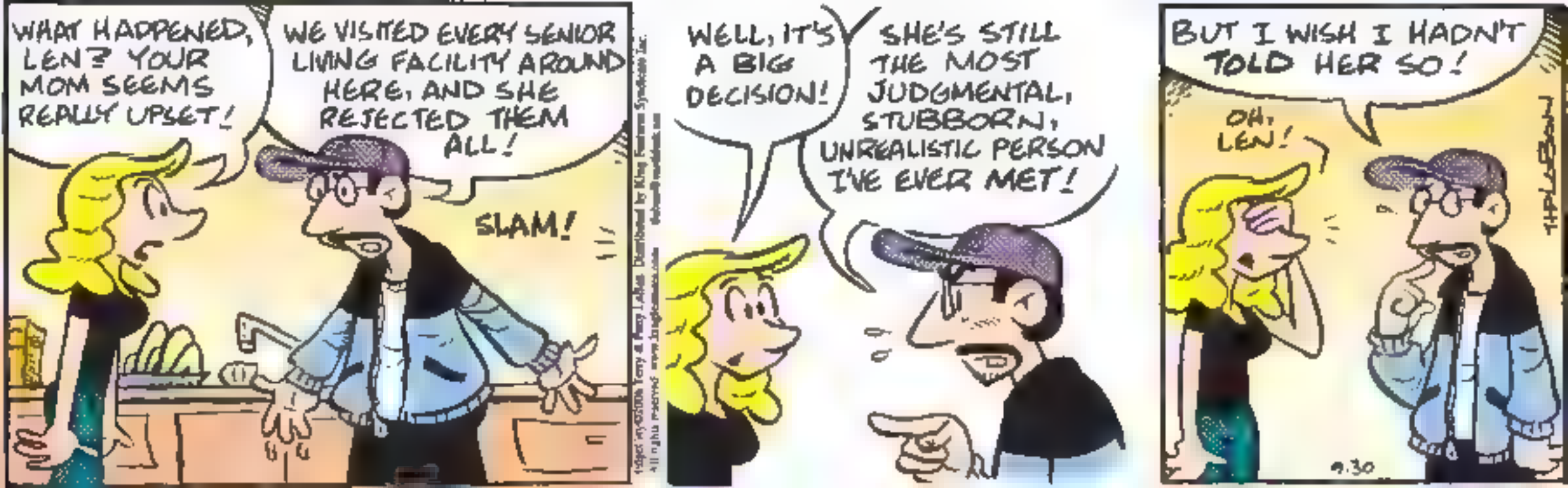
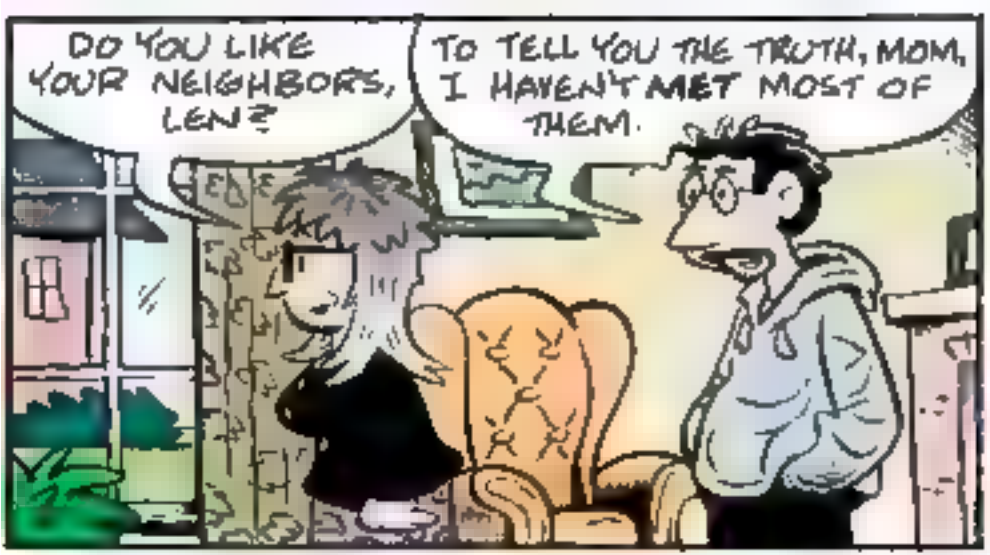
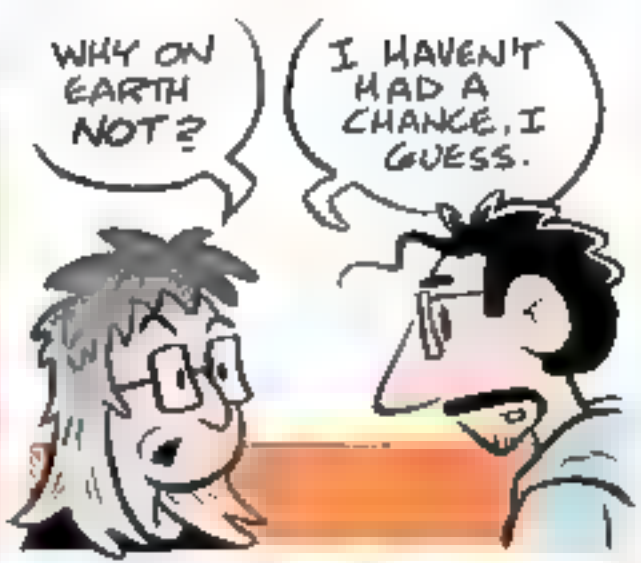
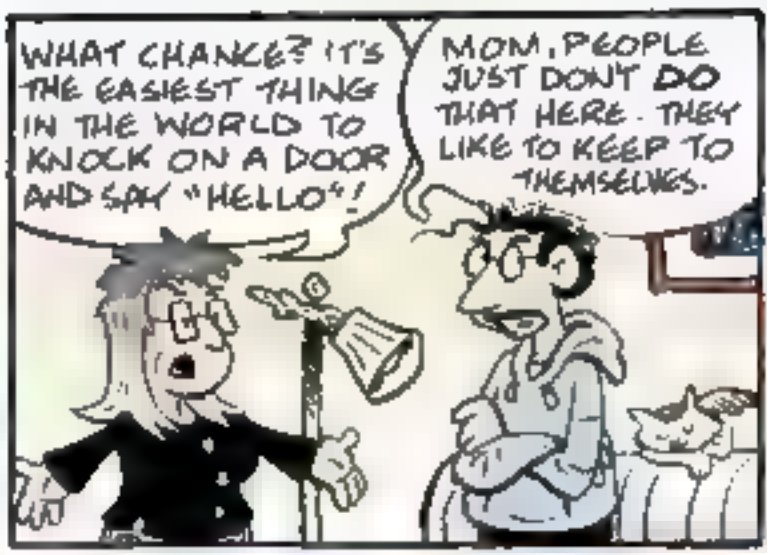
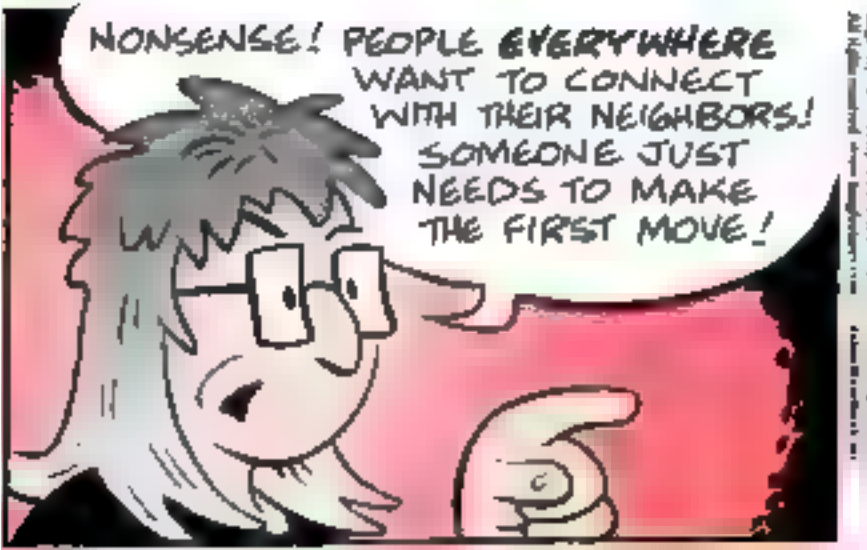


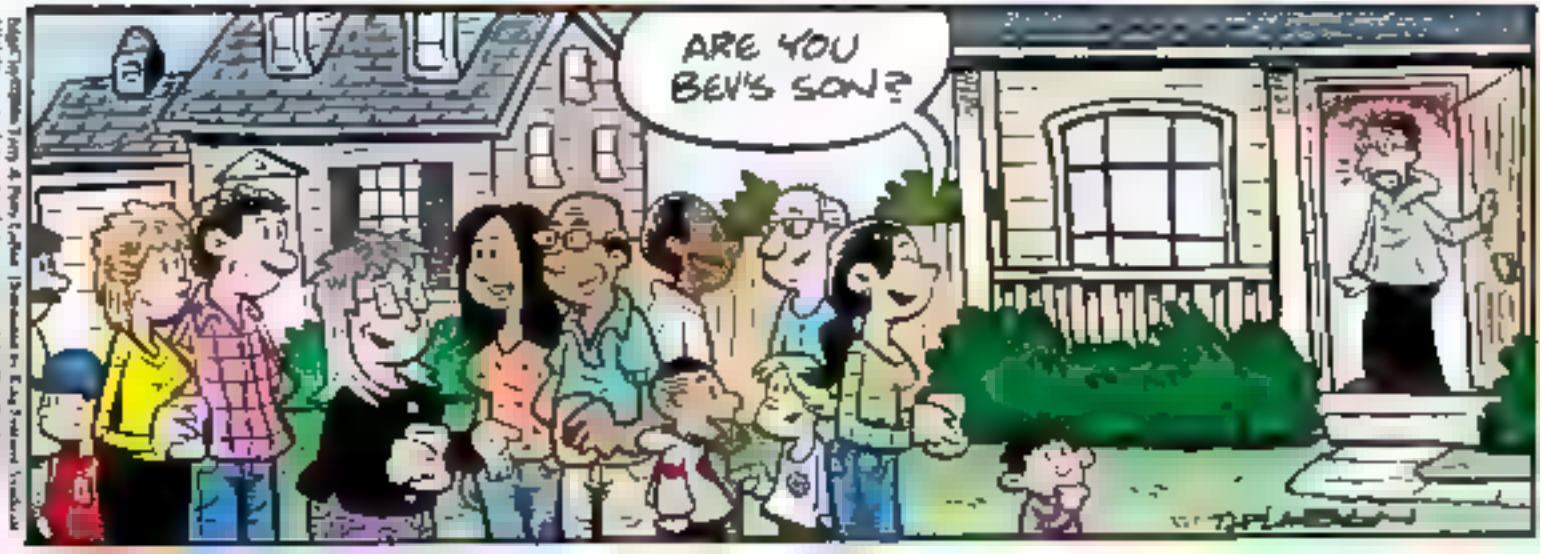

WHAT HAPPENED, LEN? YOUR MOM SEEMS REALLY UPSET!
WE VISITED EVERY SENIOR LIVING FACILITY AROUND HERE, AND SHE REJECTED THEM ALL!
SLAM!
WELL, IT'S A BIG DECISION!
SHE'S STILL THE MOST JUDGMENTAL, STUBBORN, UNREALISTIC PERSON I'VE EVER MET!
BUT I WISH I HADN'T TOLD HER SO!
OH, LEN!
9.30

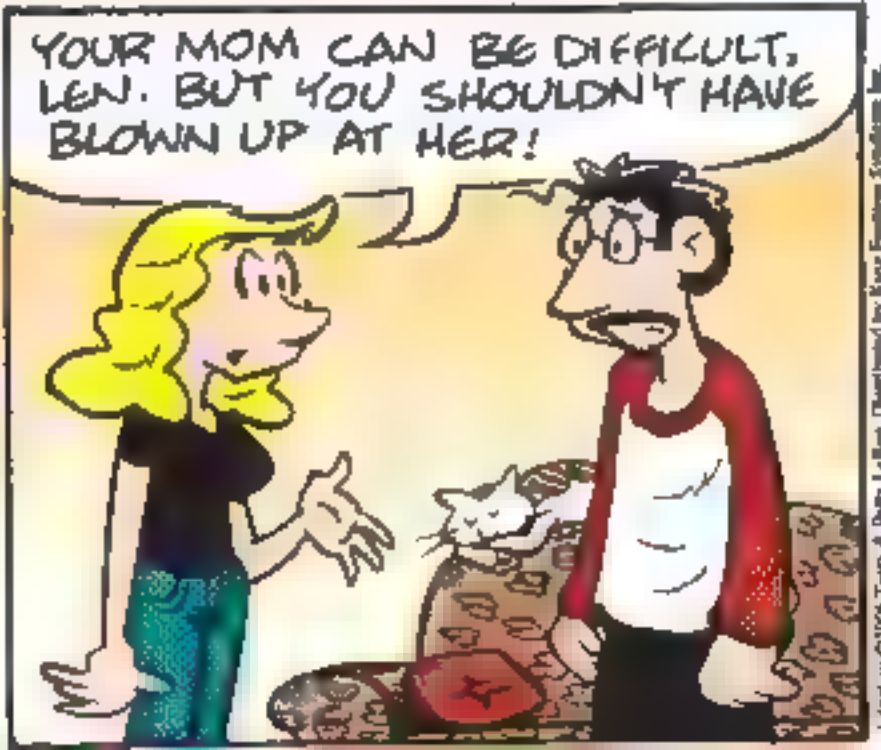

DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEIGHBORS, LEN?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, MOM, I HAVEN'T MET MOST OF THEM.


WHY ON EARTH NOT?
I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE, I GUESS.


WHAT CHANCE? IT'S THE EASIEST THING IN THE WORLD TO KNOCK ON A DOOR AND SAY "HELLO"!
MOM, PEOPLE JUST DON'T DO THAT HERE. THEY LIKE TO KEEP TO THEMSELVES.

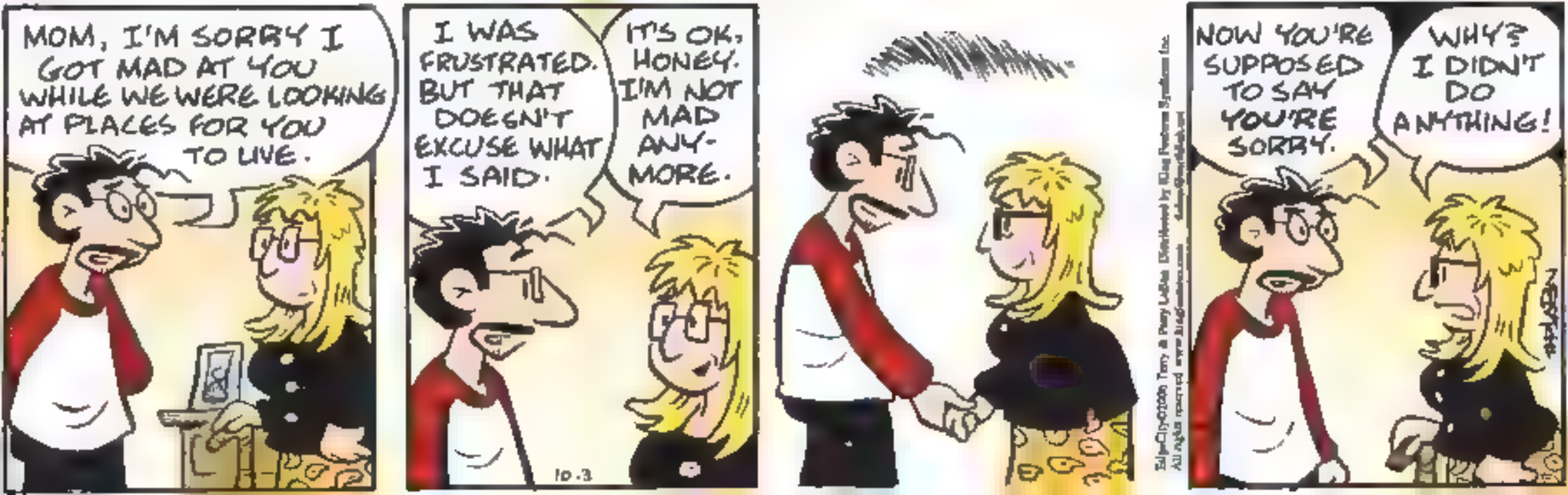

NONSENSE! PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WANT TO CONNECT WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS! SOMEONE JUST NEEDS TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE!

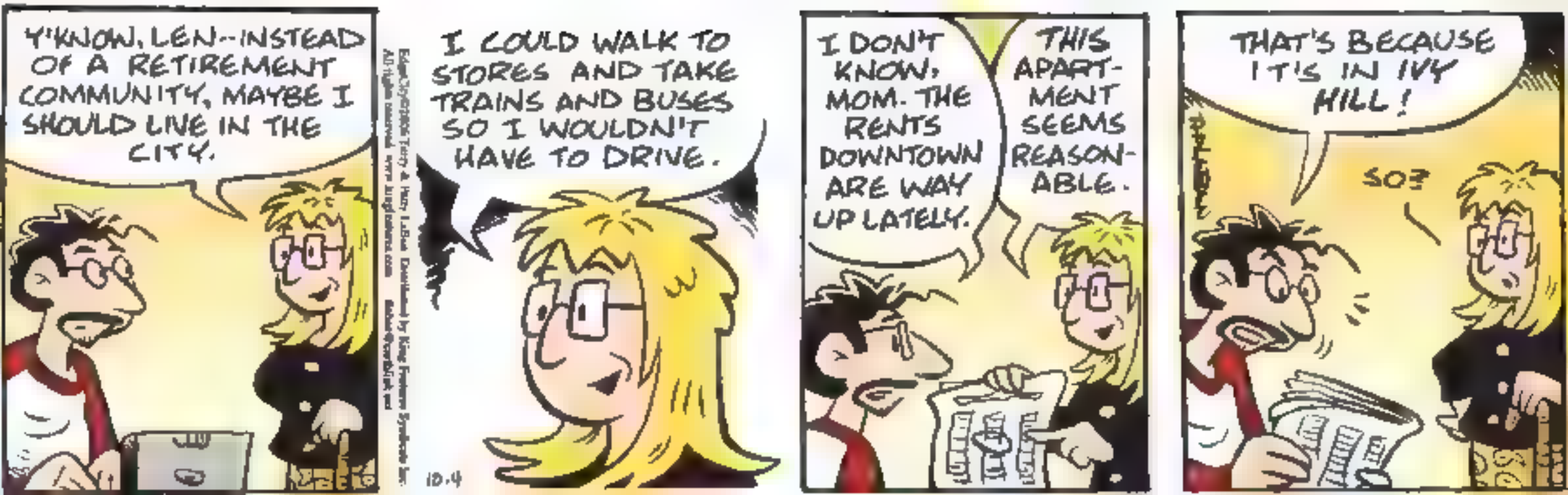

ARE YOU BEV'S SON?

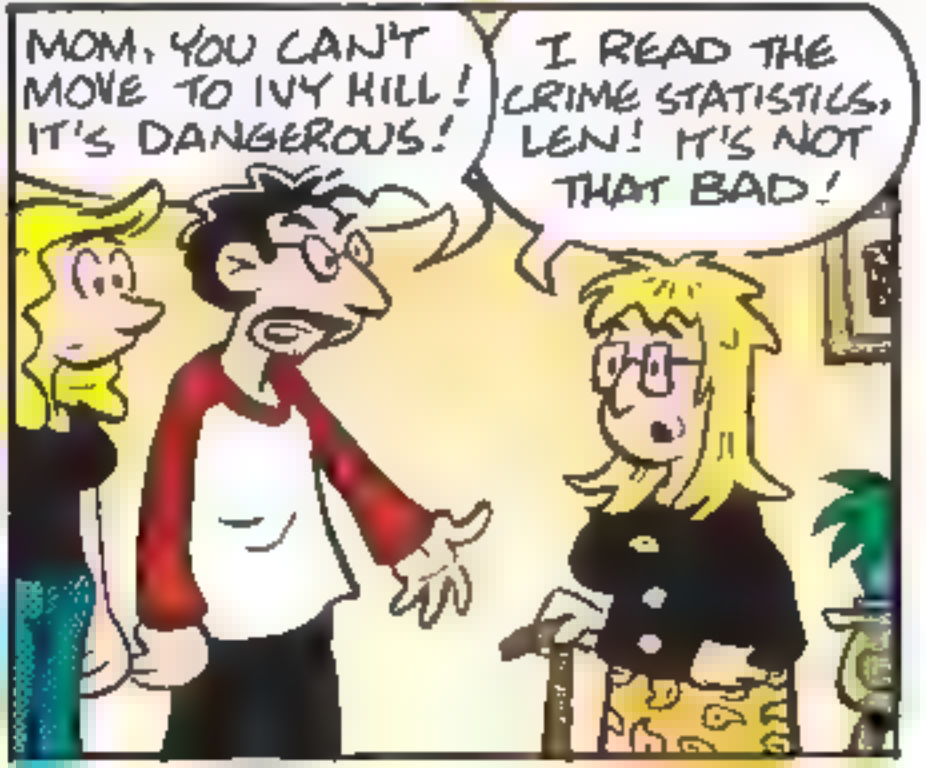

YOUR MOM CAN BE DIFFICULT, LEN. BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BLOWN UP AT HER!

YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT YOU SAID AND RESOLVE NOT TO SAY THOSE THINGS AGAIN!
I'VE ALREADY FIGURED THAT OUT, ABBY.

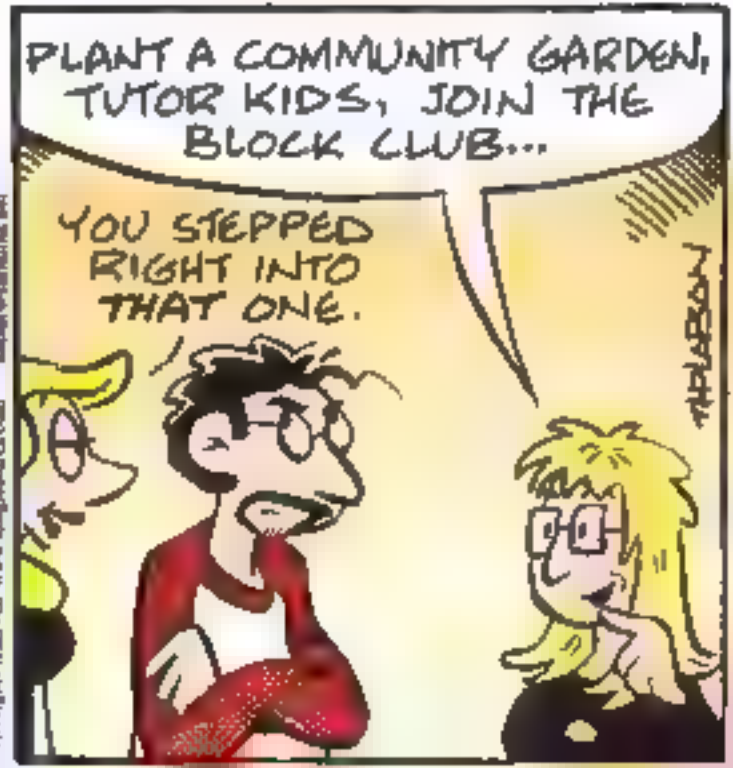
WELL, HAVE YOU DONE IT?
HEY, ONE STEP AT A TIME!

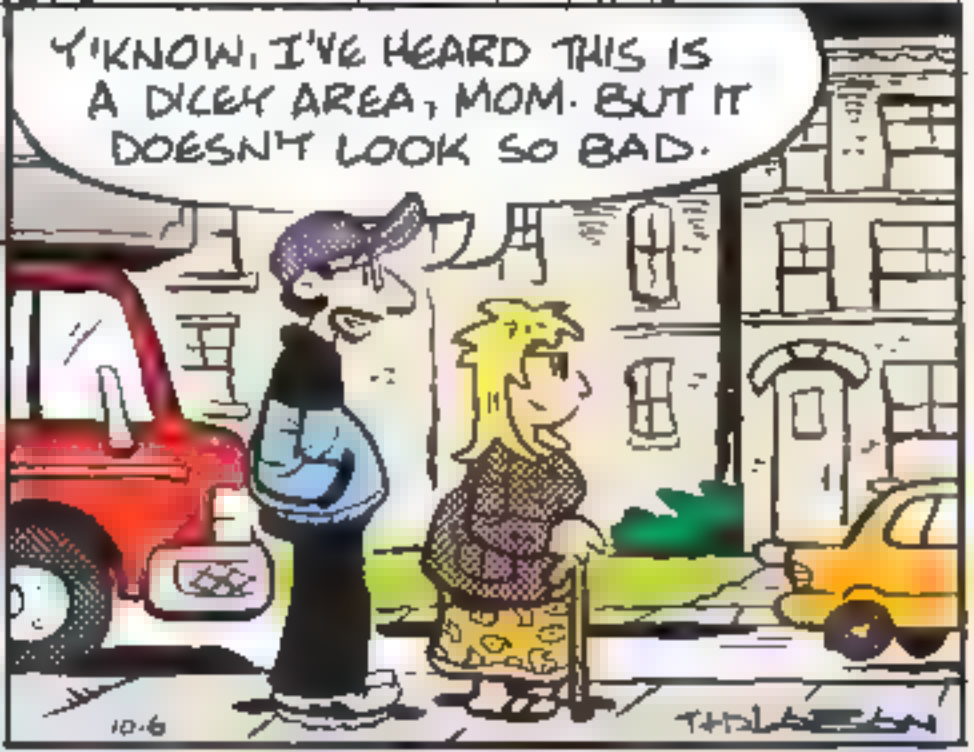

MOM, I'M SORRY I GOT MAD AT YOU WHILE WE WERE LOOKING AT PLACES FOR YOU TO LIVE.
I WAS FRUSTRATED. BUT THAT DOESN'T EXCUSE WHAT I SAID.
IT'S OK, HONEY. I'M NOT MAD ANY-MORE.
10-3
NOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY.
WHY? I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!


Y'KNOW, LEN--INSTEAD OF A RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, MAYBE I SHOULD LIVE IN THE CITY.
I COULD WALK TO STORES AND TAKE TRAINS AND BUSES SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO DRIVE.
10.4
I DON'T KNOW, MOM. THE RENTS DOWNTOWN ARE WAY UP LATELY.
THIS APART-MENT SEEMS REASON-ABLE.
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S IN IVY HILL!
SO?


MOM, YOU CAN'T MOVE TO IVY HILL! IT'S DANGEROUS!
I READ THE CRIME STATISTICS, LEN! IT'S NOT THAT BAD!

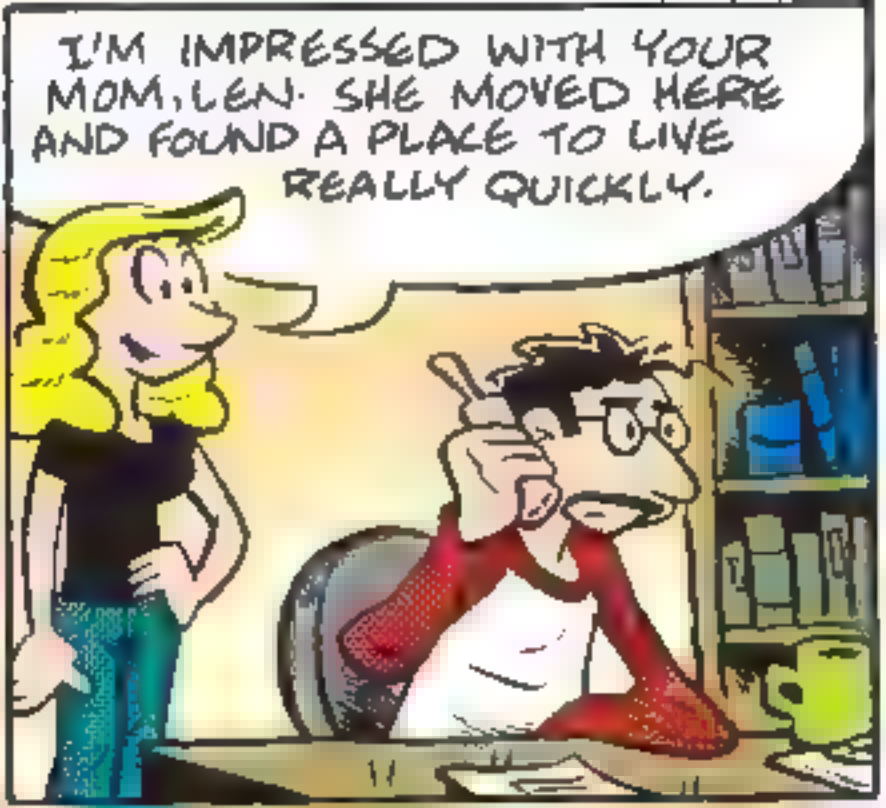
PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD LIVE THERE. IT'S VIBRANT AND DIVERSE!
C'MON, MOM! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DO IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?
10-5

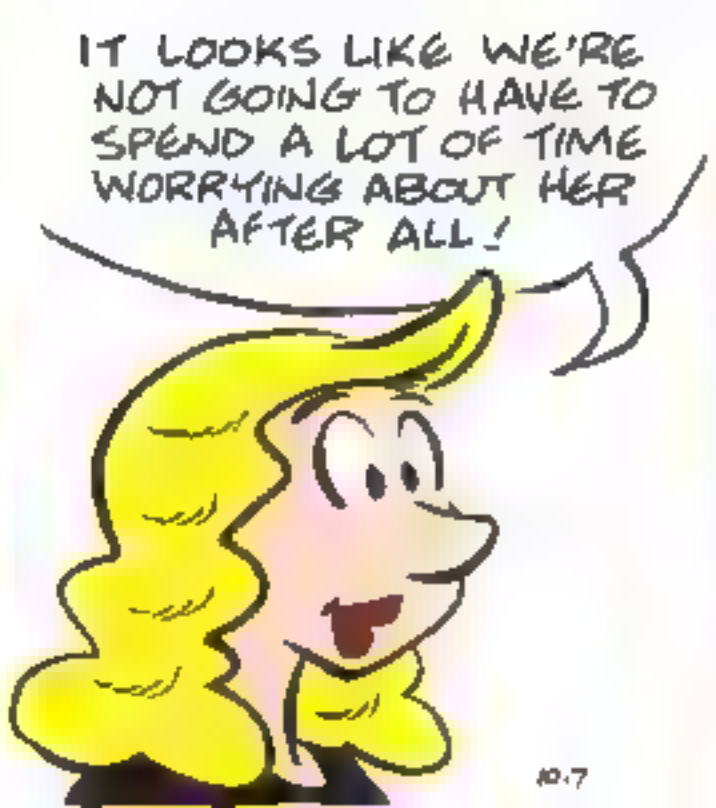

PLANT A COMMUNITY GARDEN, TUTOR KIDS, JOIN THE BLOCK CLUB...
YOU STEPPED RIGHT INTO THAT ONE.
THARRAH

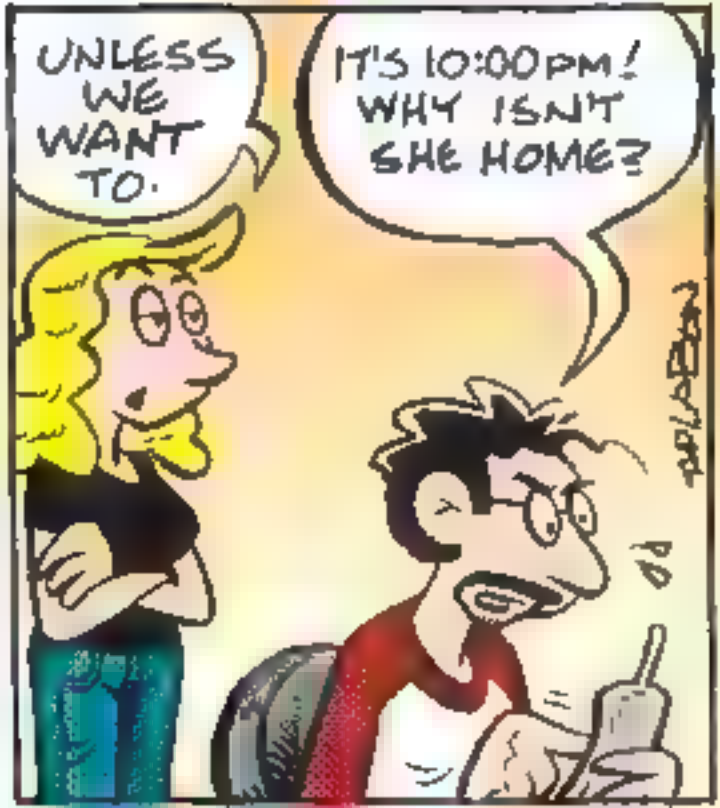

Y'KNOW, I'VE HEARD THIS IS A DICEY AREA, MOM. BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK SO BAD.
10-6

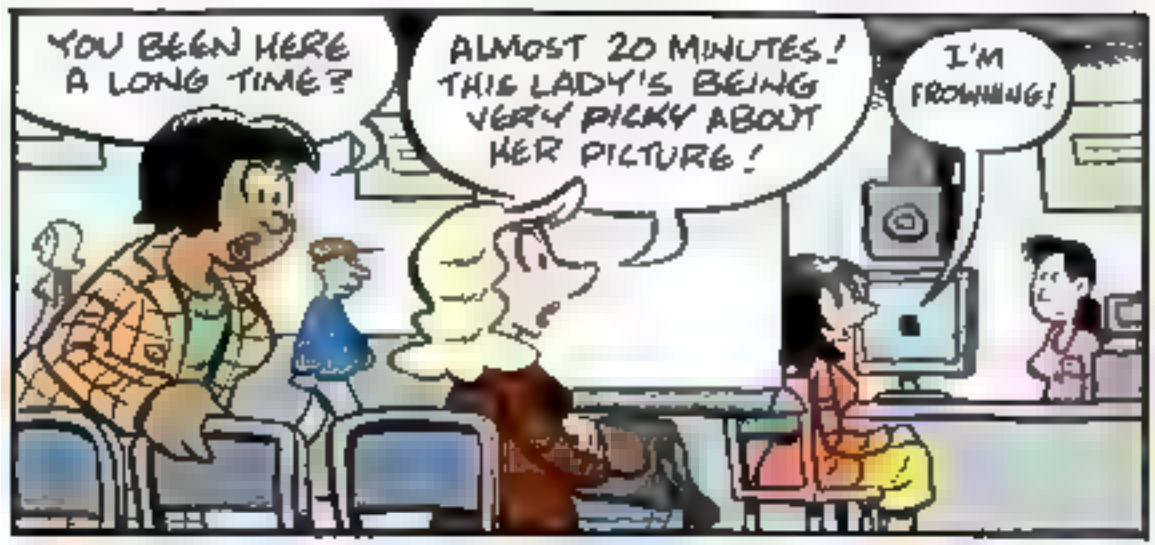
IT'S EVEN GENTRIFYING A BIT! THEY'RE TURNING THAT OLD BUILDING INTO LUXURY CONDOS.
YEAH-- I SEE THAT.

AND AS SOON AS I CAN, I'LL ORGANIZE THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO GET THOSE YUPPIES OUT!
SIGH! LET'S CARRY IN YOUR STUFF...

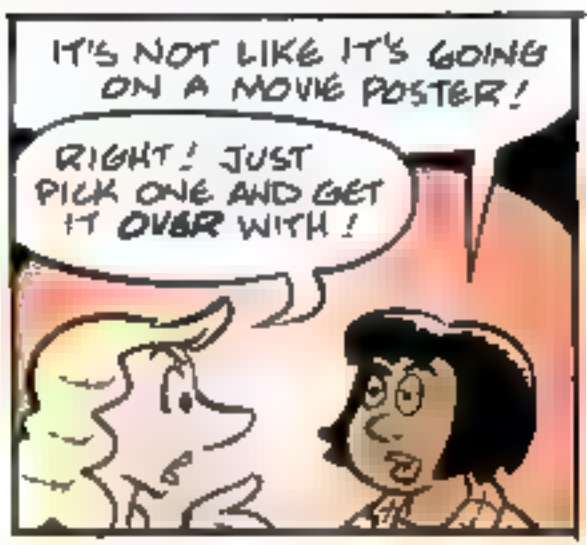

I'M IMPRESSED WITH YOUR MOM, LEN. SHE MOVED HERE AND FOUND A PLACE TO LIVE REALLY QUICKLY.

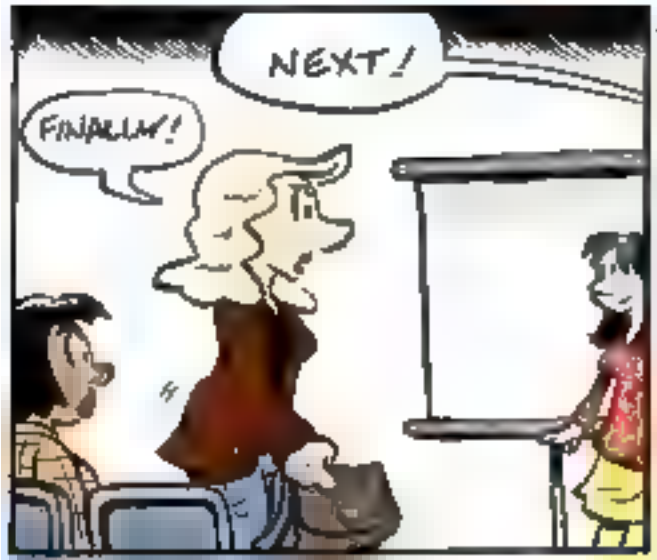

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME WORRYING ABOUT HER AFTER ALL!
10-7


UNLESS WE WANT TO.
IT'S 10:00PM! WHY ISN'T SHE HOME?

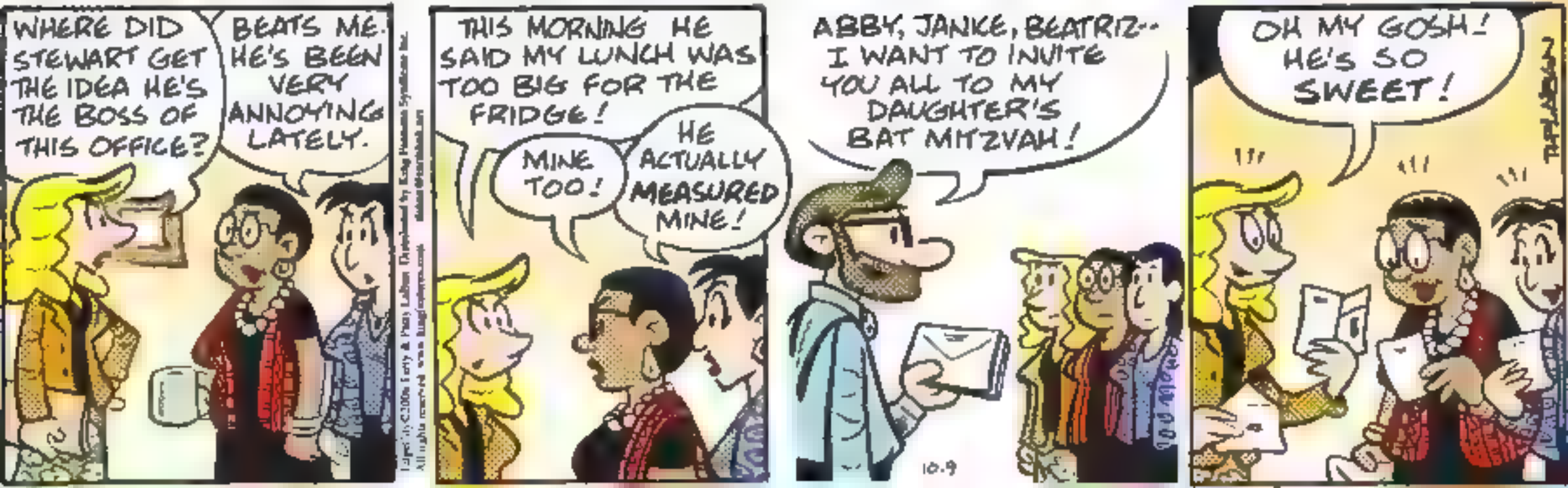

YOU BEEN HERE A LONG TIME?
ALMOST 20 MINUTES! THIS LADY'S BEING VERY PICKY ABOUT HER PICTURE!
I'M FROWNING!

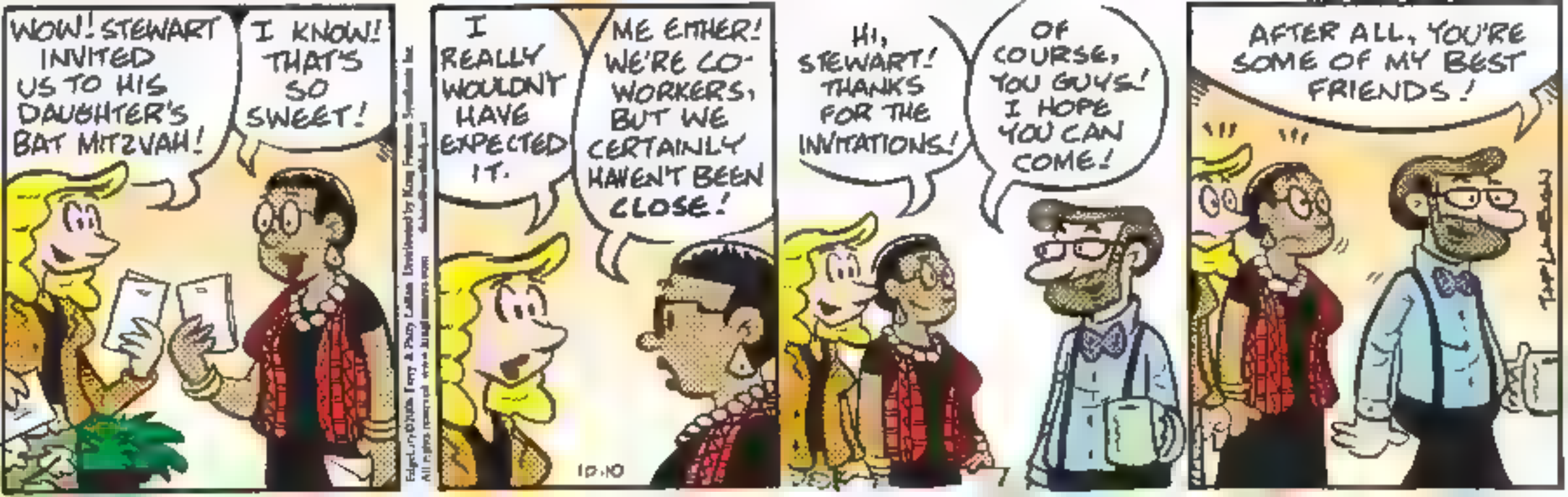
IT'S GREAT THAT YOU CAN PREVIEW YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE PHOTO, BUT YOU NEED TO BE REASONABLE!
I HEAR YOU!
MY HAIR'S STICKING UP!

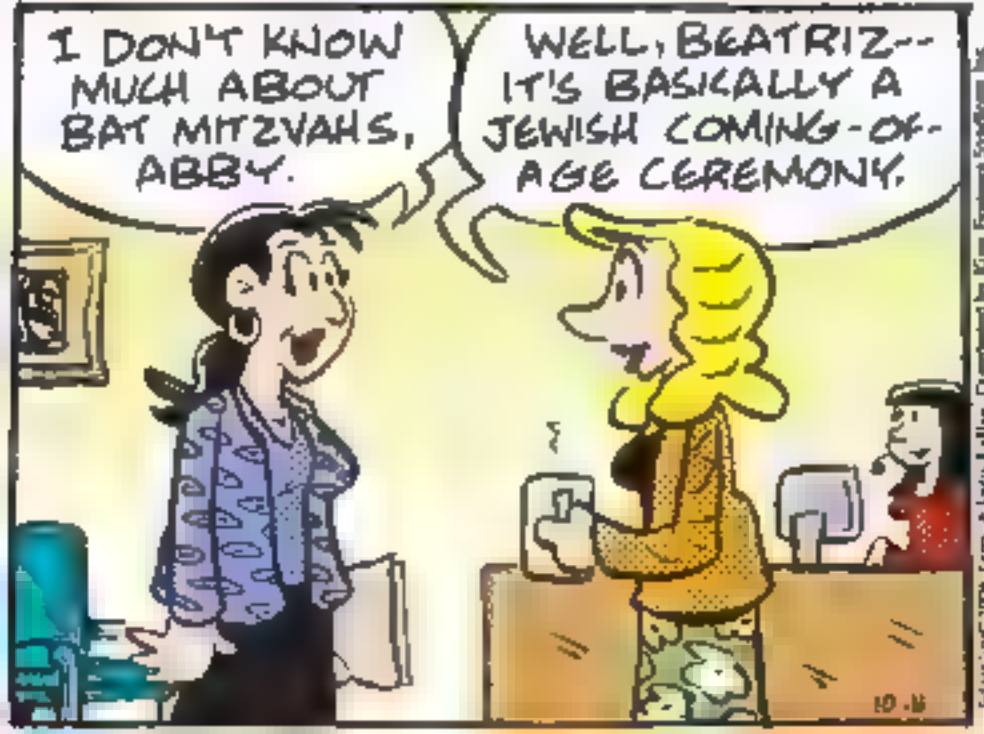

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S GOING ON A MOVIE POSTER!
RIGHT! JUST PICK ONE AND GET IT OVER WITH!


NEXT!
FINALLY!

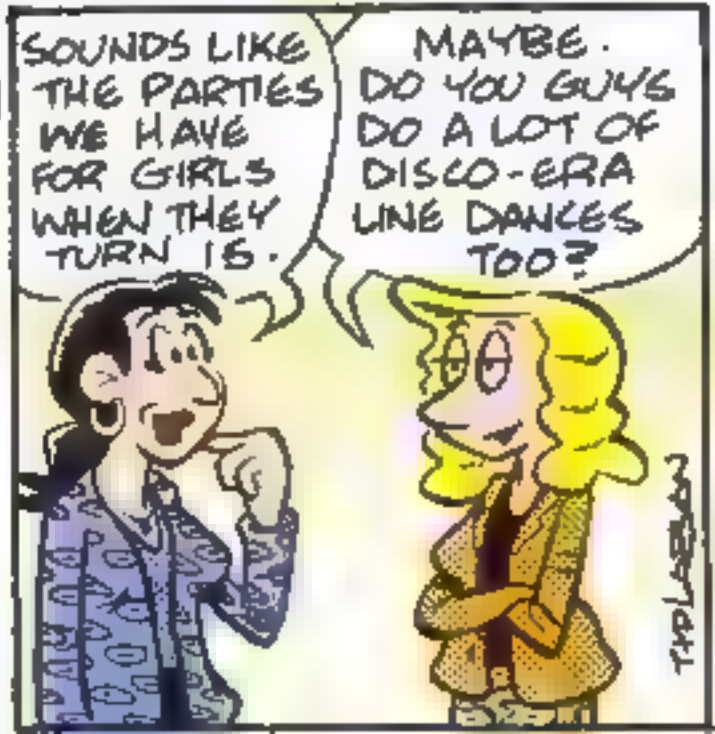
HOW ABOUT THIS?
I LOOK SO SERIOUS! LET'S TRY IT ONCE MORE...


WHERE DID STEWART GET THE IDEA HE'S THE BOSS OF THIS OFFICE?
BEATS ME. HE'S BEEN VERY ANNOYING LATELY.
THIS MORNING HE SAID MY LUNCH WAS TOO BIG FOR THE FRIDGE!
MINE TOO!
HE ACTUALLY MEASURED MINE!
ABBY, JANICE, BEATRIZ-- I WANT TO INVITE YOU ALL TO MY DAUGHTER'S BAT MITZVAH!
10-9
OH MY GOSH! HE'S SO SWEET!


WOW! STEWART INVITED US TO HIS DAUGHTER'S BAT MITZVAH!
I KNOW! THAT'S SO SWEET!
I REALLY WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED IT.
ME EITHER! WE'RE CO-WORKERS, BUT WE CERTAINLY HAVEN'T BEEN CLOSE!
10-10
HI, STEWART! THANKS FOR THE INVITATIONS!
OF COURSE, YOU GUYS! I HOPE YOU CAN COME!
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS!


I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT BAT MITZVAHS, ABBY.
WELL, BEATRIZ-- IT'S BASICALLY A JEWISH COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY.

AT 13, YOU'RE CONSIDERED AN ADULT. THERE'S A SERVICE AT THE SYNAGOGUE AND THEN A CELEBRATION.


SOUNDS LIKE THE PARTIES WE HAVE FOR GIRLS WHEN THEY TURN 16.
MAYBE. DO YOU GUYS DO A LOT OF DISCO-ERA LINE DANCES TOO?
THPLABAN

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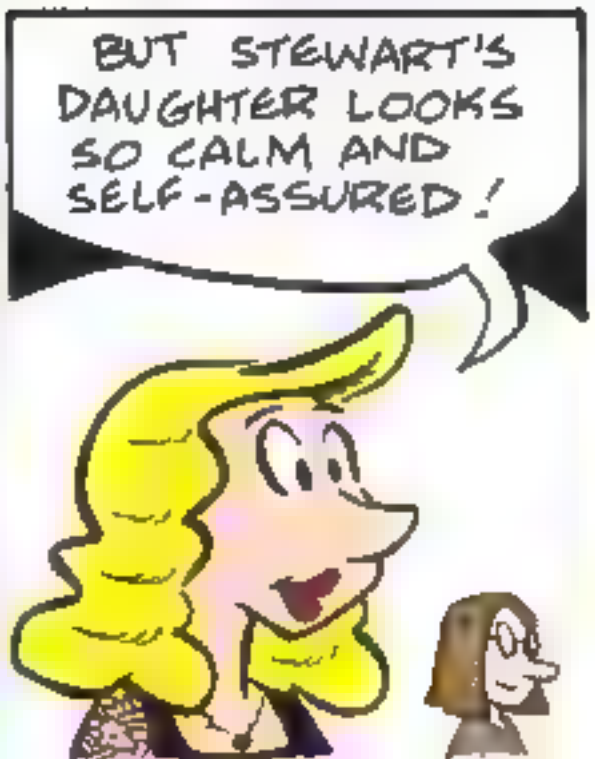
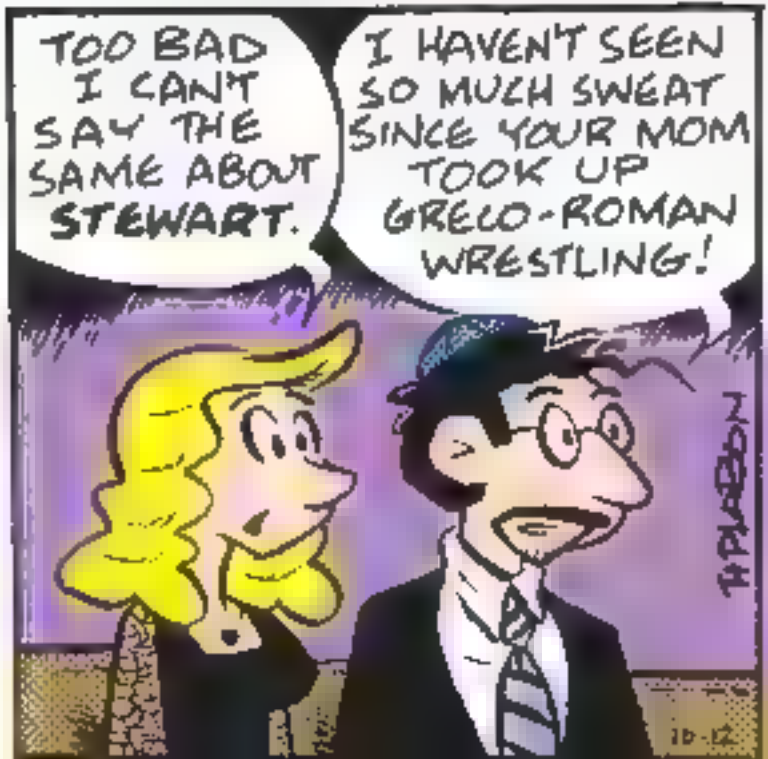
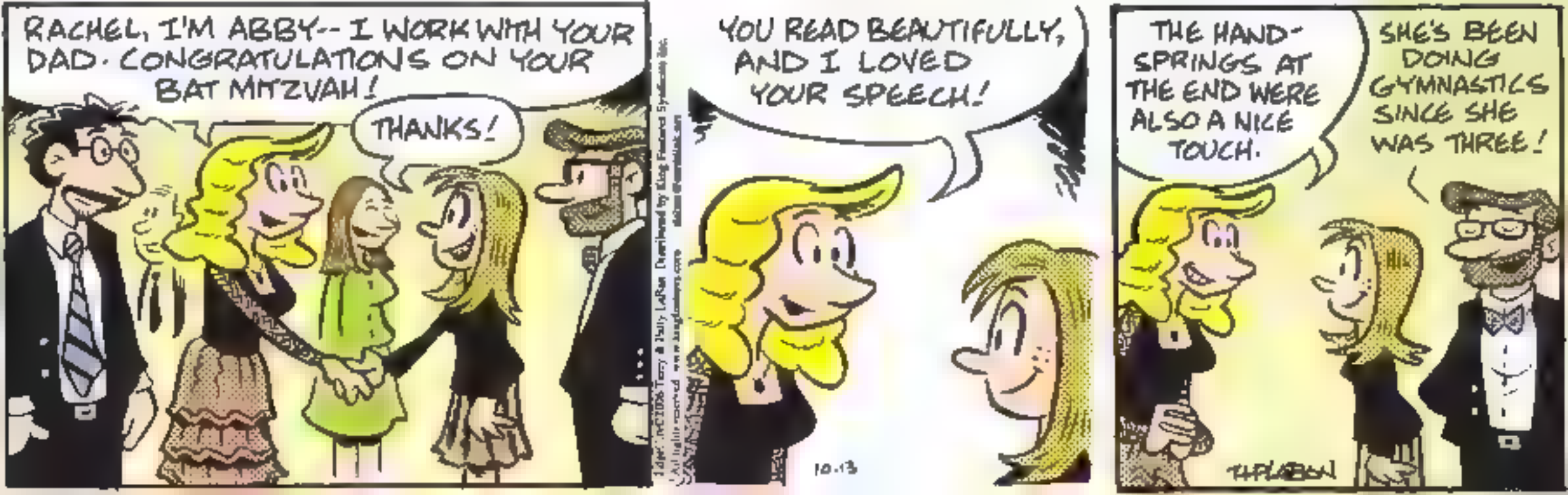
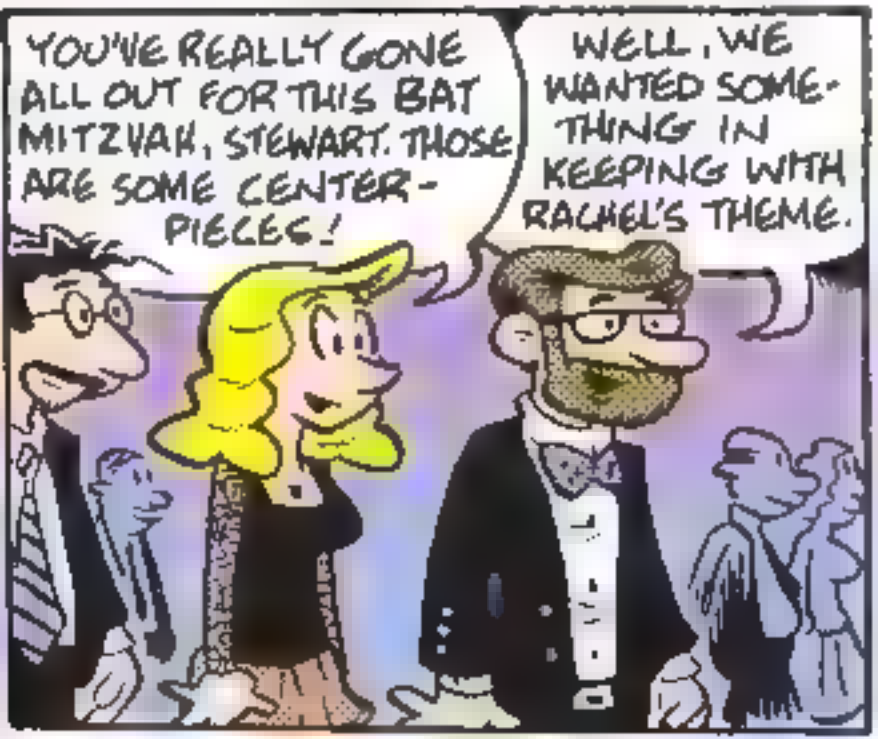



RACHEL, I'M ABBY-- I WORK WITH YOUR DAD. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BAT MITZVAH!
THANKS!
YOU READ BEAUTIFULLY, AND I LOVED YOUR SPEECH!
10-13
THE HAND-SPRINGS AT THE END WERE ALSO A NICE TOUCH.
SHE'S BEEN DOING GYMNASTICS SINCE SHE WAS THREE!

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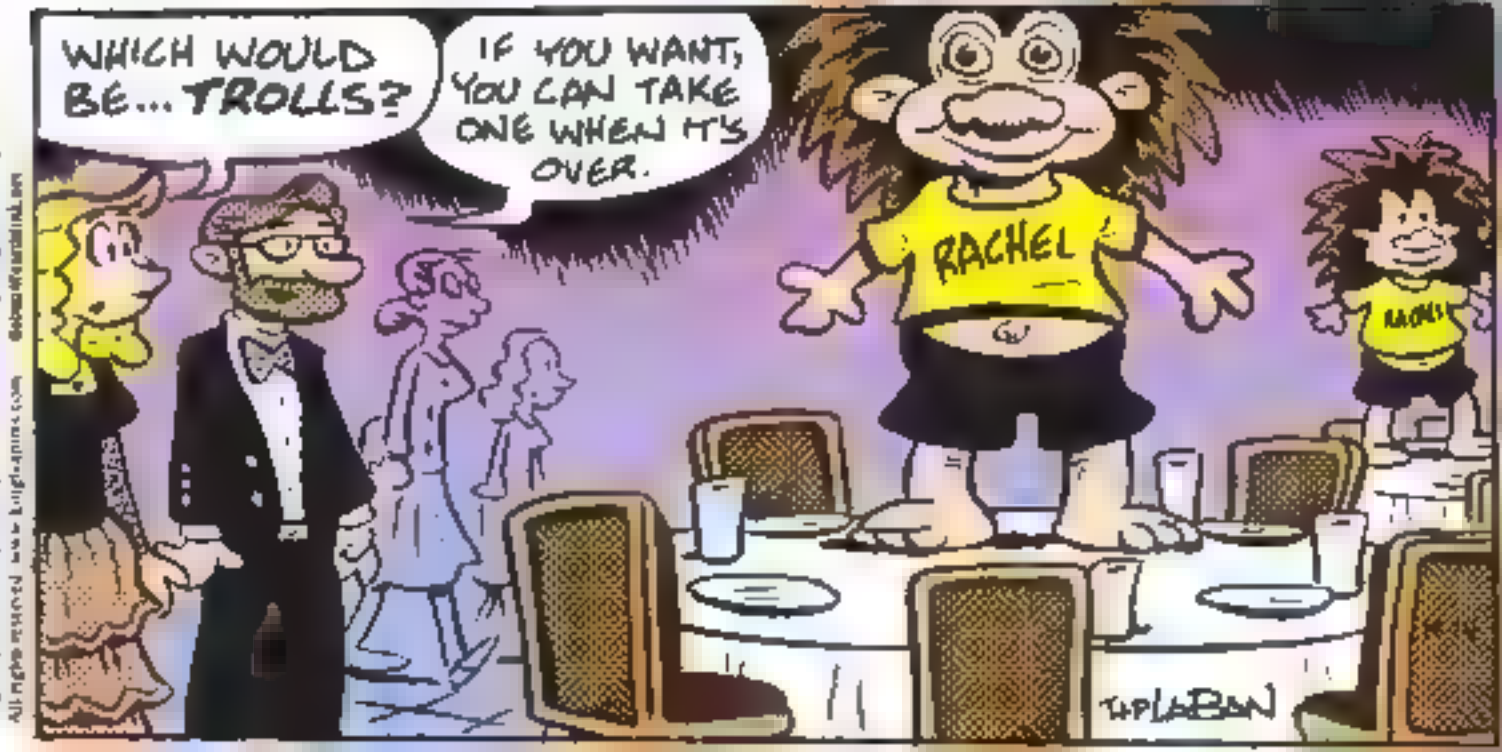
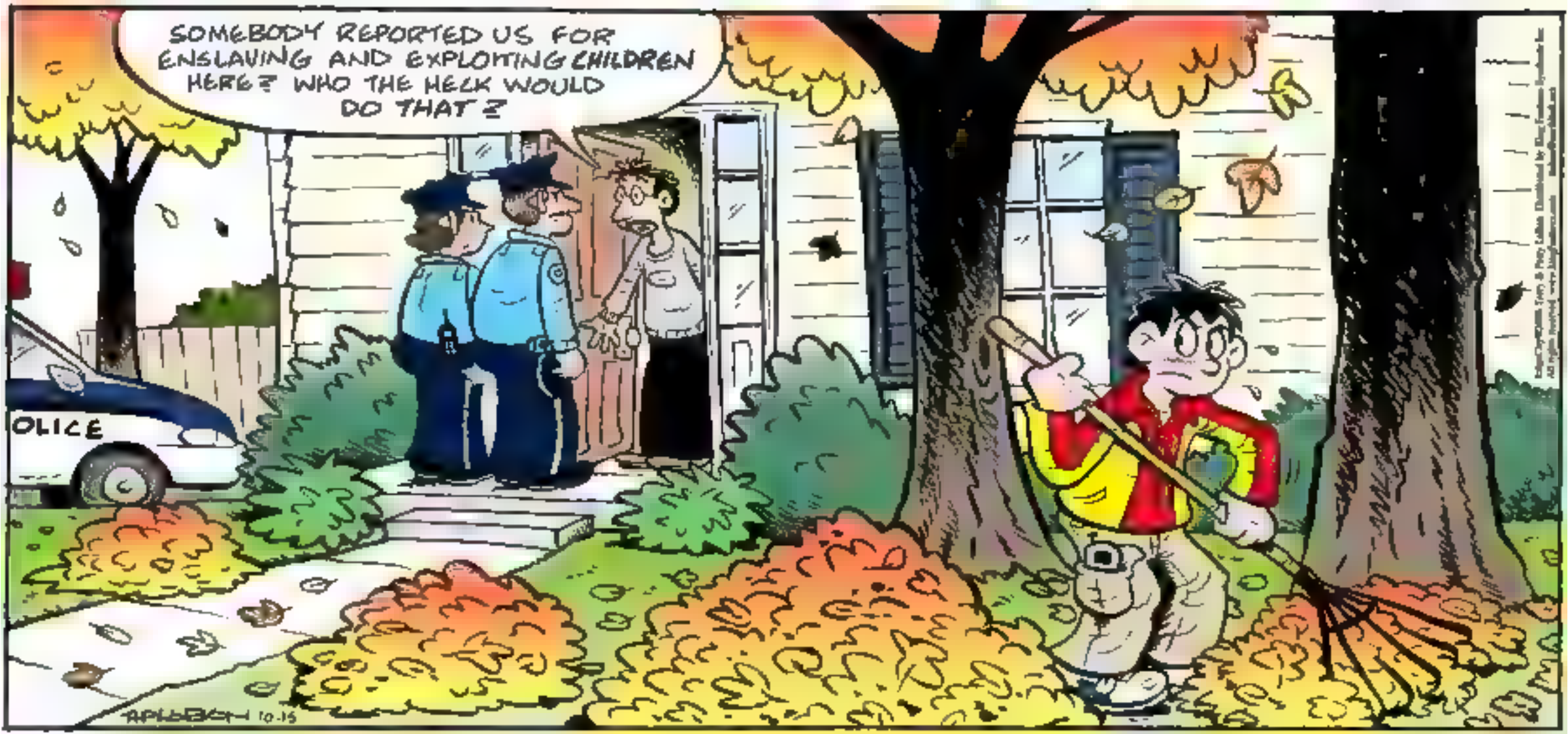
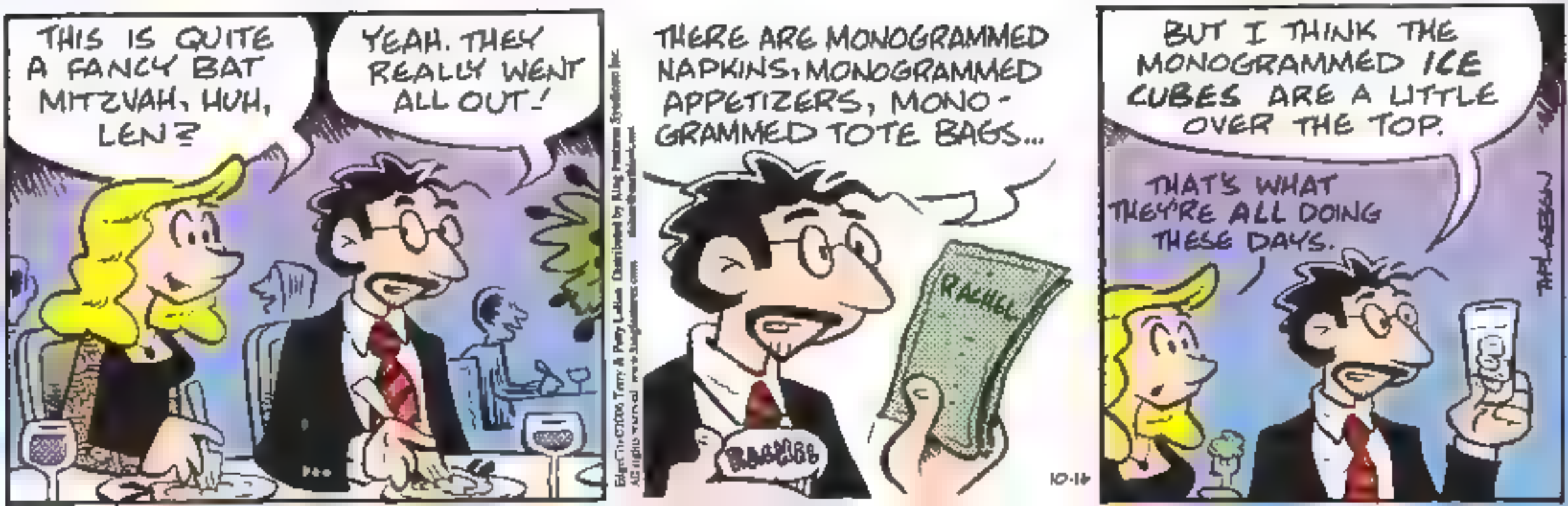
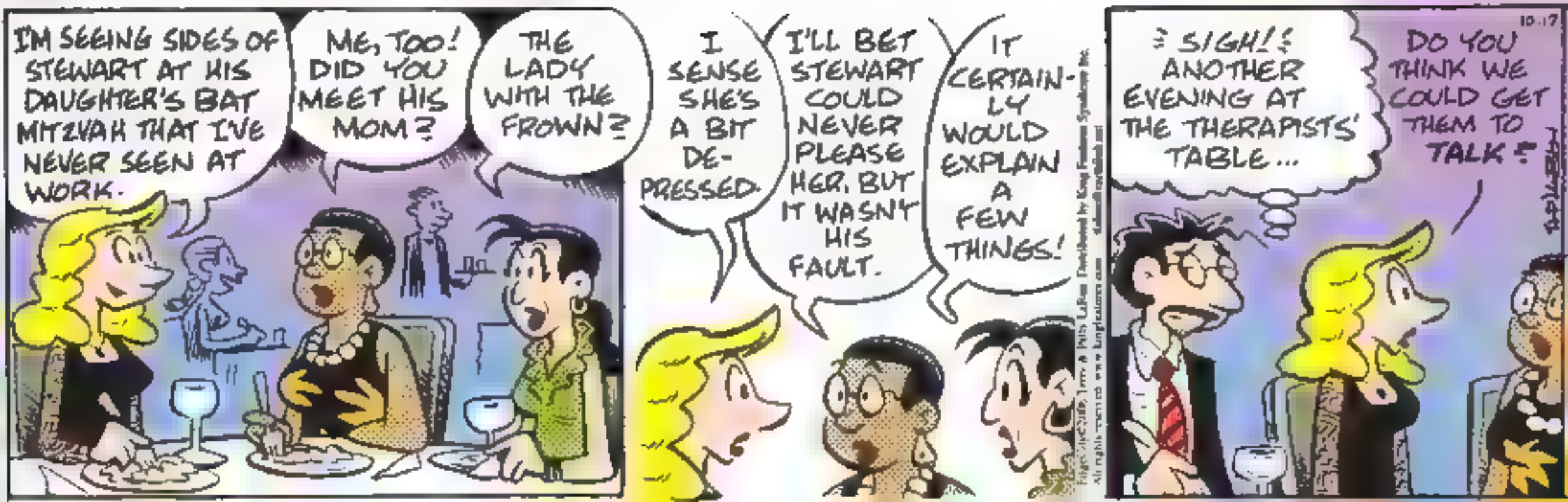
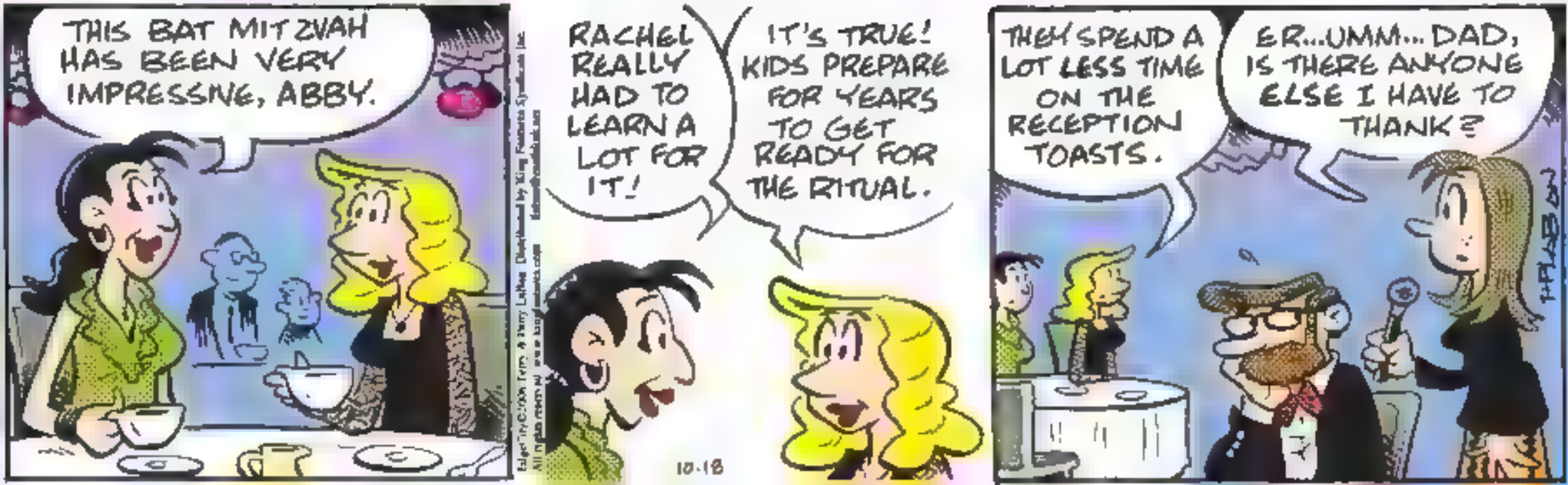
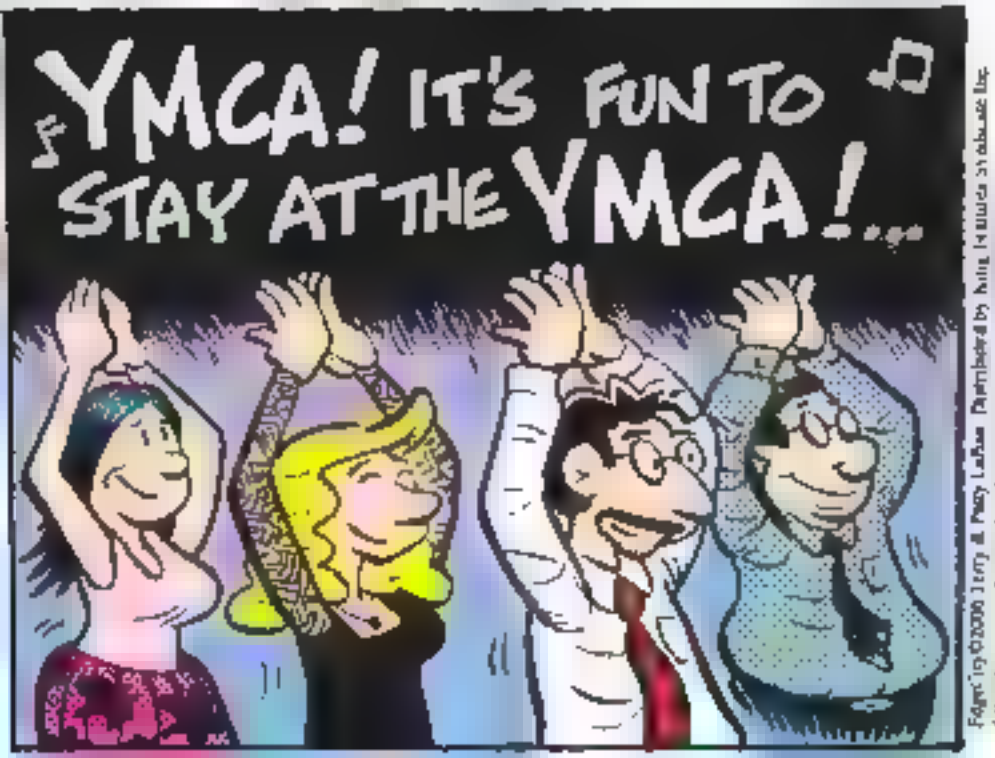



SOMEBODY REPORTED US FOR ENSLAVING AND EXPLOITING CHILDREN HERE? WHO THE HECK WOULD DO THAT?
OLICE
APLEBACH 10-15

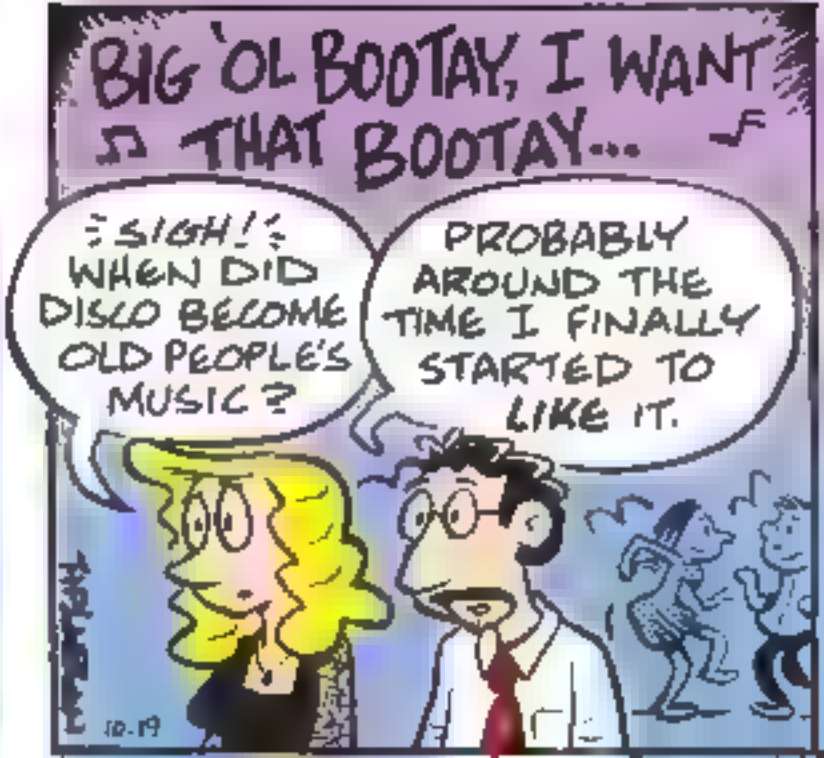

THIS IS QUITE A FANCY BAT MITZVAH, HUH, LEN?
YEAH. THEY REALLY WENT ALL OUT!
THERE ARE MONOGRAMMED NAPKINS, MONOGRAMMED APPETIZERS, MONO-GRAMMED TOTE BAGS...
RACHEL
BAGEL
10-16
BUT I THINK THE MONOGRAMMED ICE CUBES ARE A LITTLE OVER THE TOP.
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE ALL DOING THESE DAYS.

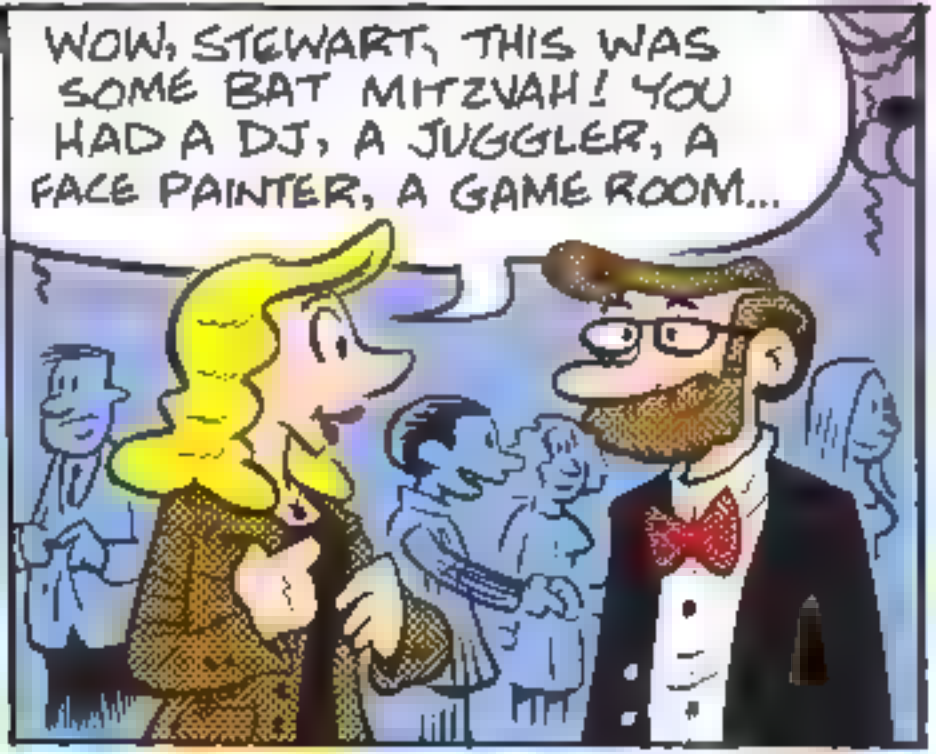

I'M SEEING SIDES OF STEWART AT HIS DAUGHTER'S BAT MITZVAH THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN AT WORK.
ME, TOO! DID YOU MEET HIS MOM?
THE LADY WITH THE FROWN?
I SENSE SHE'S A BIT DE-PRESSED.
I'LL BET STEWART COULD NEVER PLEASE HER, BUT IT WASN'T HIS FAULT.
IT CERTAIN-LY WOULD EXPLAIN A FEW THINGS!
10-17
SIGH!
ANOTHER EVENING AT THE THERAPISTS' TABLE...
DO YOU THINK WE COULD GET THEM TO TALK?


THIS BAT MITZVAH HAS BEEN VERY IMPRESSIVE, ABBY.
RACHEL REALLY HAD TO LEARN A LOT FOR IT!
IT'S TRUE! KIDS PREPARE FOR YEARS TO GET READY FOR THE RITUAL.
THEY SPEND A LOT LESS TIME ON THE RECEPTION TOASTS.
ER...UMM... DAD, IS THERE ANYONE ELSE I HAVE TO THANK?
10-18


YMCA! IT'S FUN TO STAY AT THE YMCA!...

OK, EVERYONE-- LET'S GET THE YOUNG FOLKS OUT ON THE FLOOR!


BIG 'OL BOOTAY, I WANT THAT BOOTAY...
SIGH! WHEN DID DISCO BECOME OLD PEOPLE'S MUSIC?
PROBABLY AROUND THE TIME I FINALLY STARTED TO LIKE IT.
10-19



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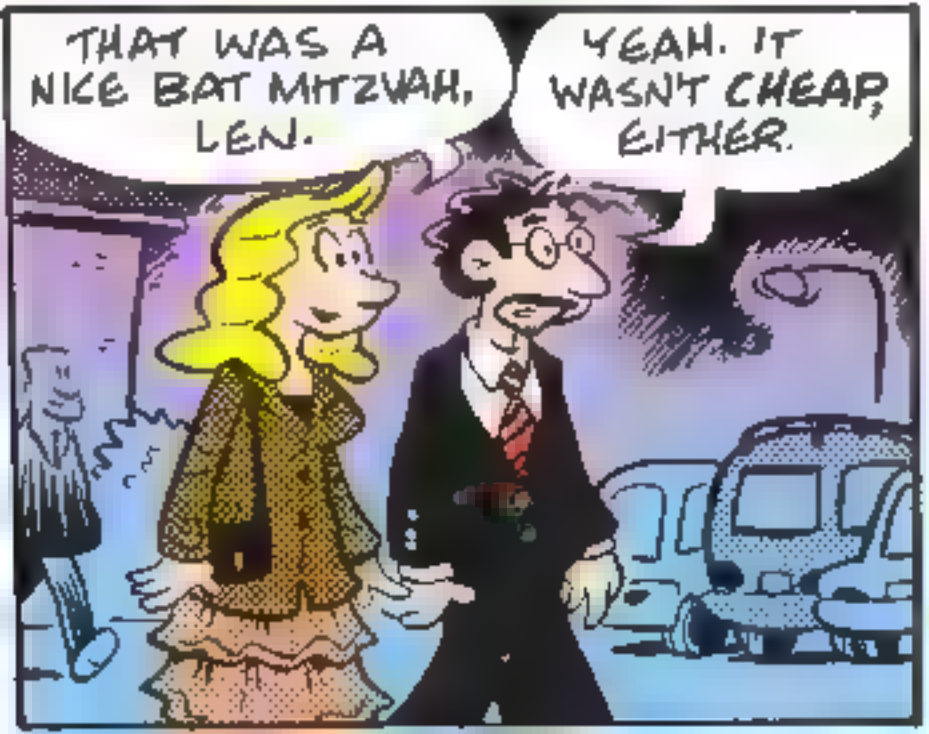

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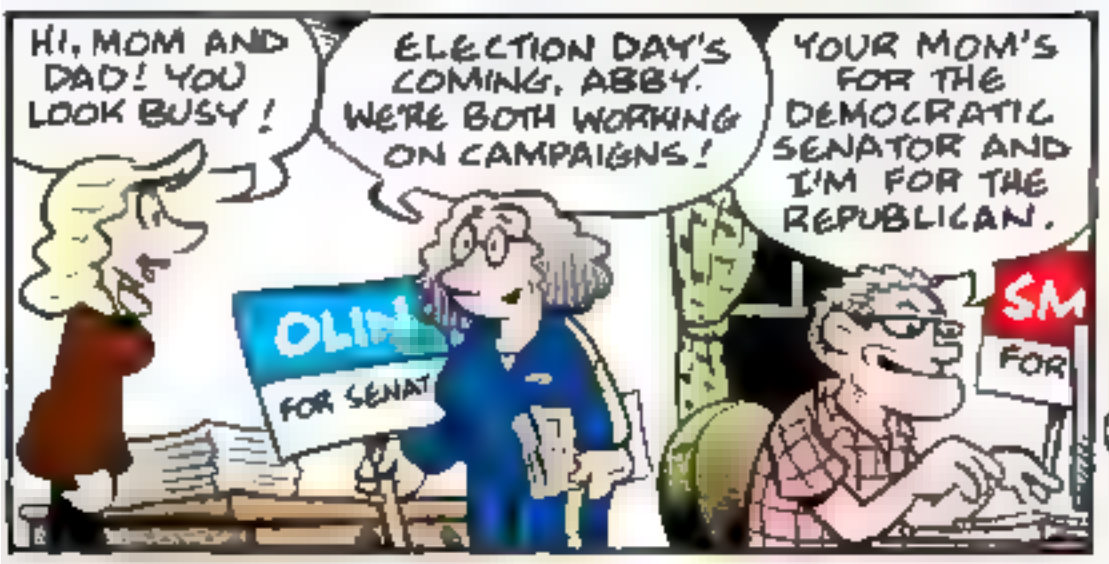
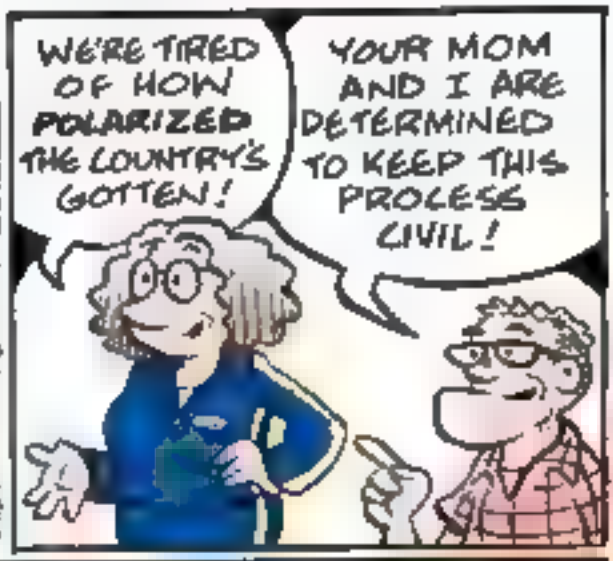
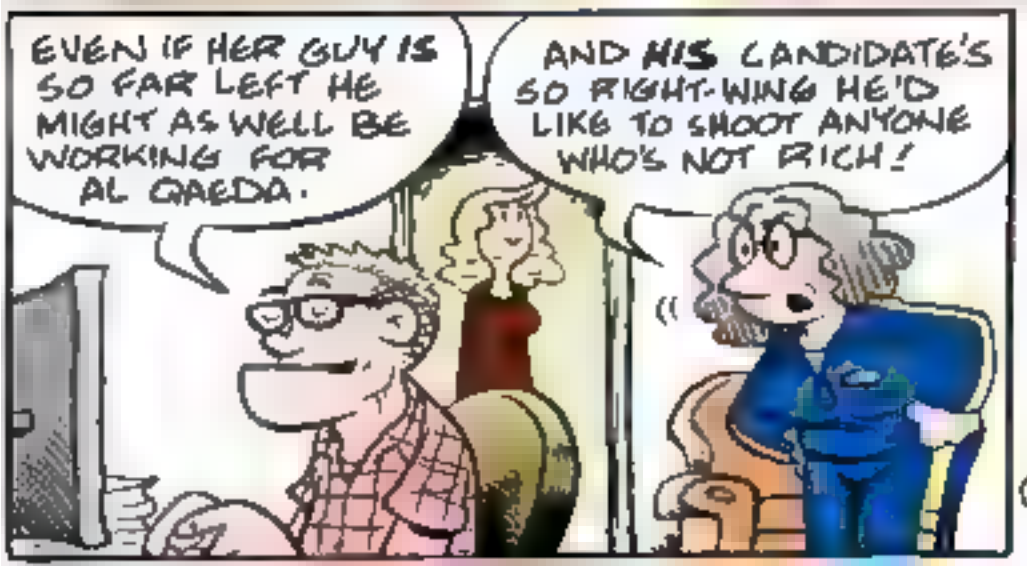
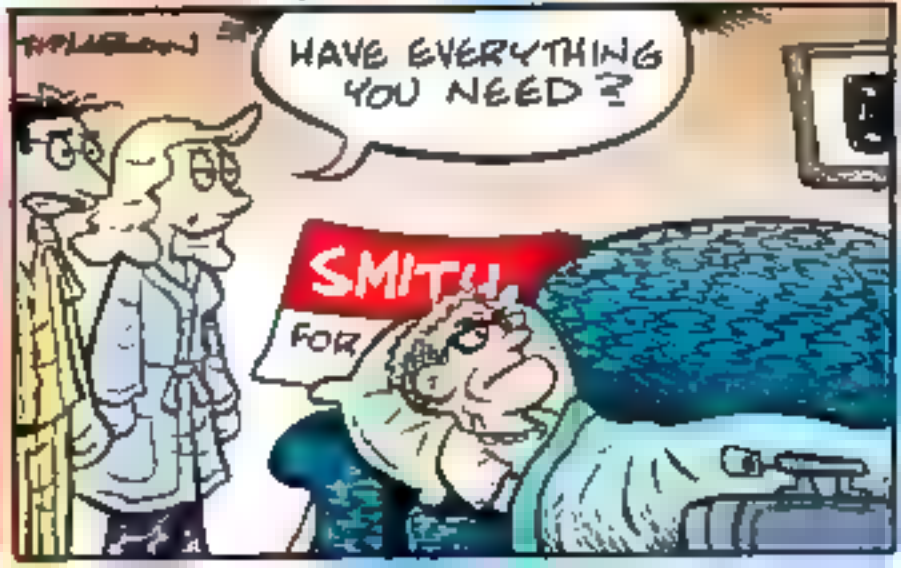

HI, MOM AND DAD! YOU LOOK BUSY!
ELECTION DAY'S COMING, ABBY. WE'RE BOTH WORKING ON CAMPAIGNS!
YOUR MOM'S FOR THE DEMOCRATIC SENATOR AND I'M FOR THE REPUBLICAN.
OLIN
FOR SENAT
SM
FOR

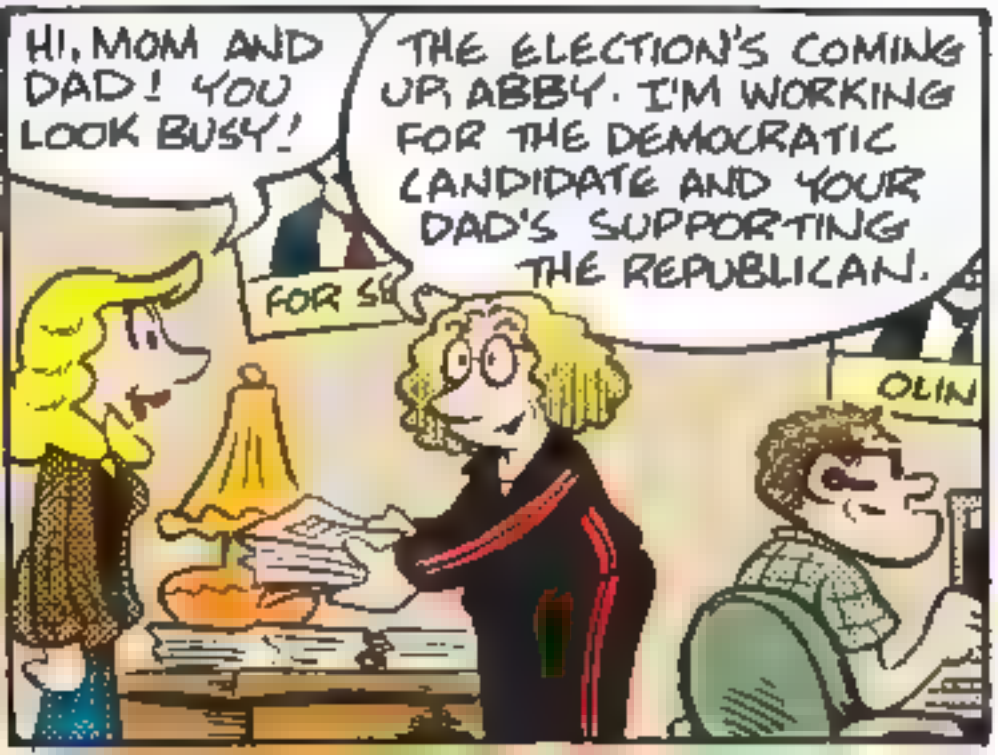
DOES THAT MEAN ONE OF YOU WILL BE SLEEPING ON OUR COUCH SOON?
NOT THIS TIME!

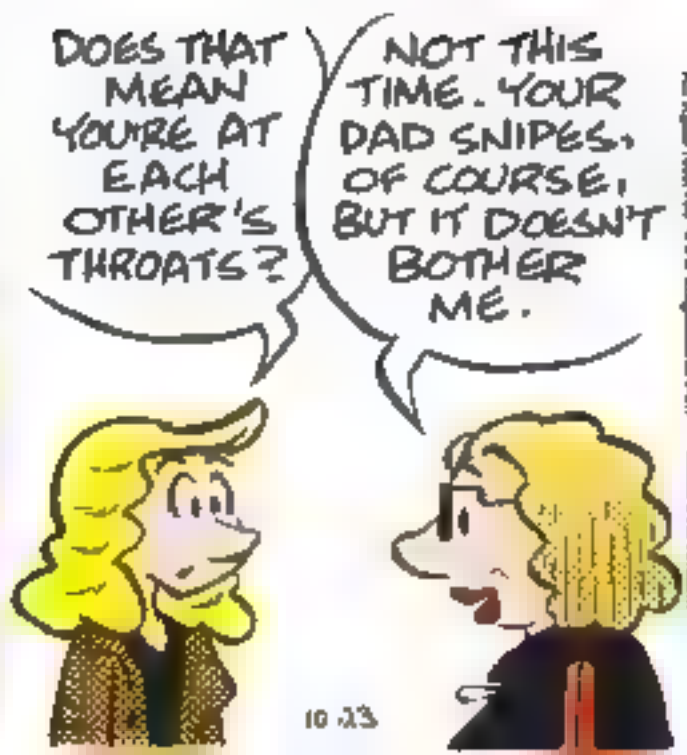

WE'RE TIRED OF HOW POLARIZED THE COUNTRY'S GOTTEN!
YOUR MOM AND I ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP THIS PROCESS CIVIL!

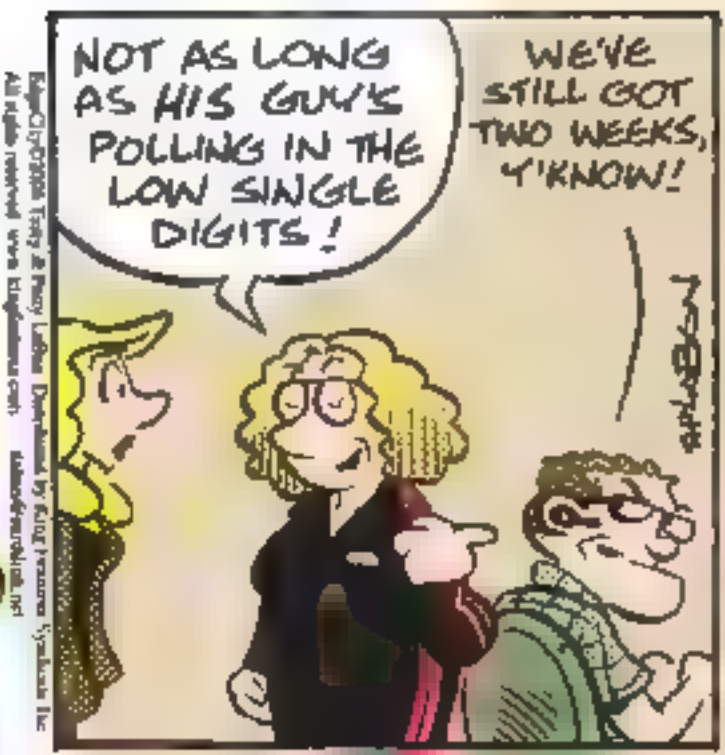

EVEN IF HER GUY IS SO FAR LEFT HE MIGHT AS WELL BE WORKING FOR AL QAEDA.
AND HIS CANDIDATE'S SO RIGHT-WING HE'D LIKE TO SHOOT ANYONE WHO'S NOT RICH!

TRAITOR!
OLIGARCH!
APPEASER!
TYRANT!


HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED?
SMITH
FOR

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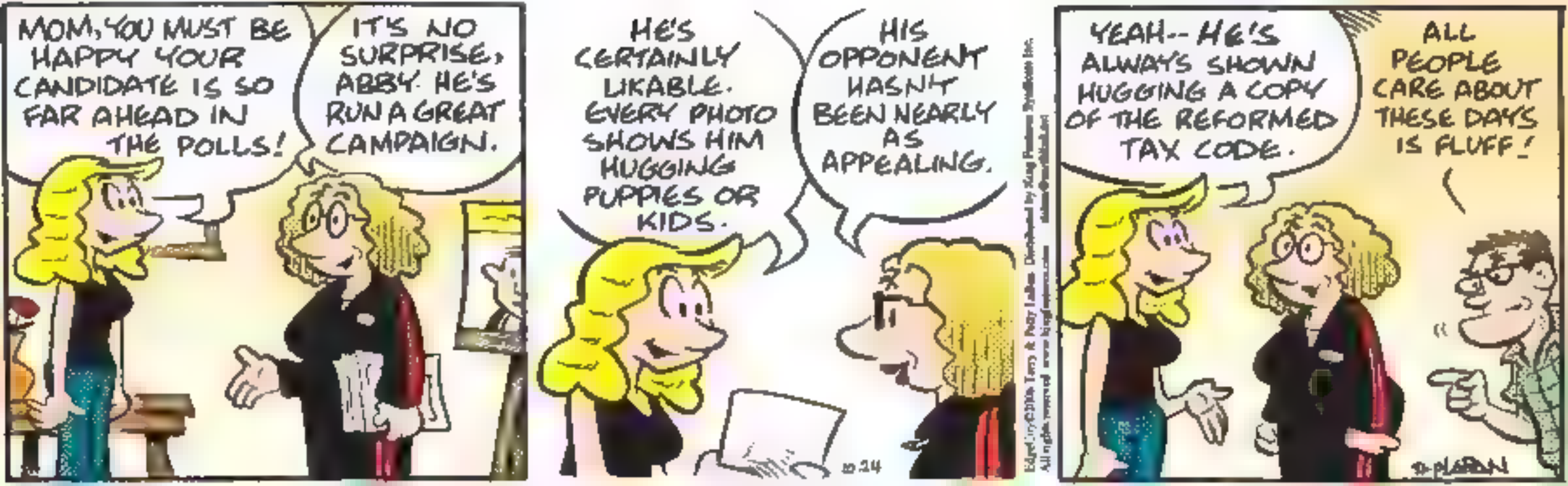
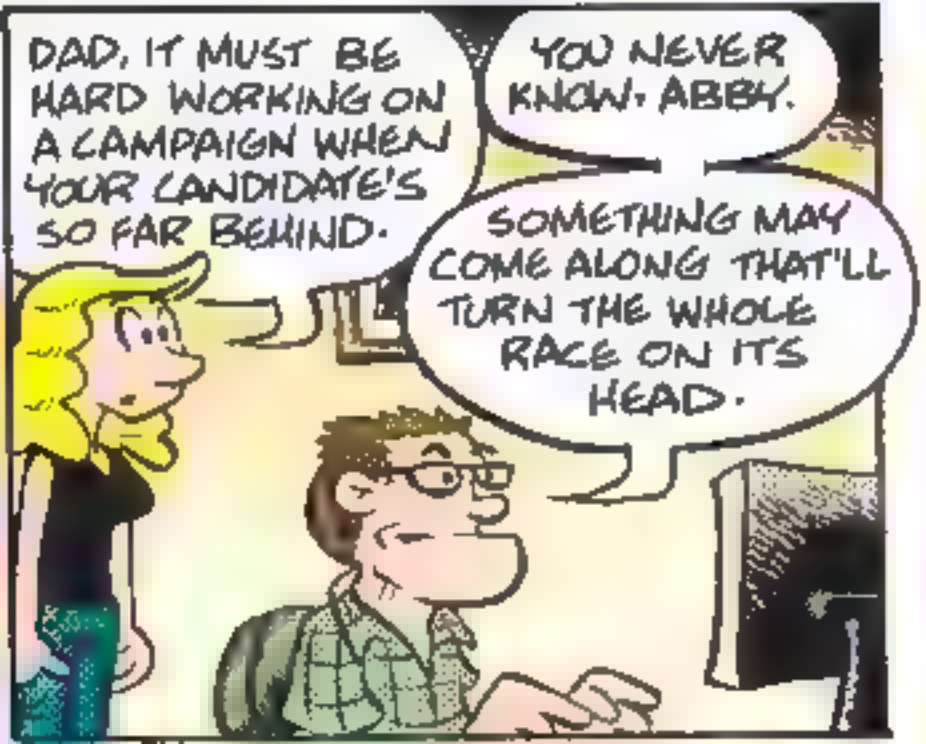
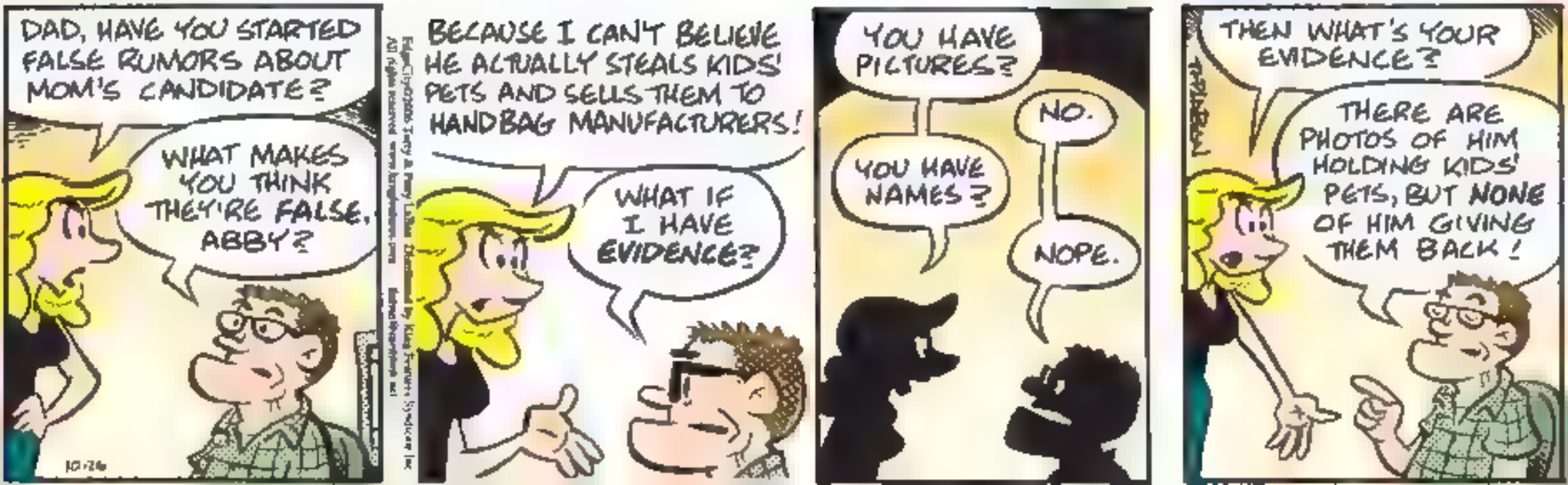
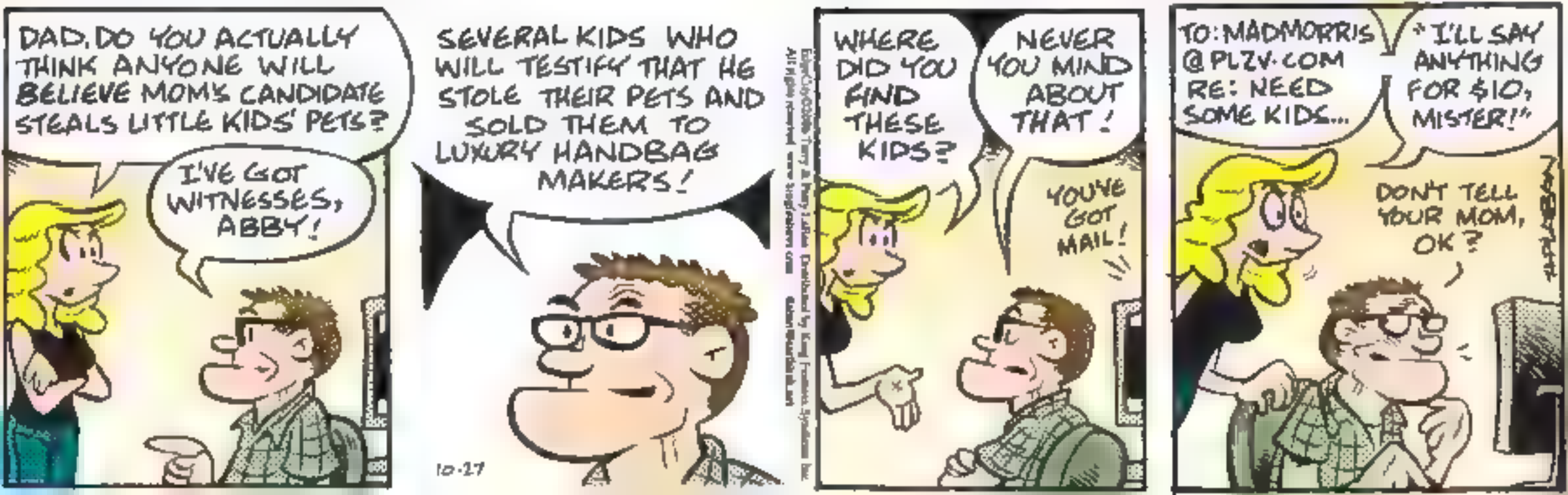

MOM, YOU MUST BE HAPPY YOUR CANDIDATE IS SO FAR AHEAD IN THE POLLS!
IT'S NO SURPRISE, ABBY. HE'S RUN A GREAT CAMPAIGN.
HE'S CERTAINLY LIKABLE. EVERY PHOTO SHOWS HIM HUGGING PUPPIES OR KIDS.
HIS OPPONENT HASN'T BEEN NEARLY AS APPEALING.
YEAH-- HE'S ALWAYS SHOWN HUGGING A COPY OF THE REFORMED TAX CODE.
ALL PEOPLE CARE ABOUT THESE DAYS IS FLUFF!


DAD, IT MUST BE HARD WORKING ON A CAMPAIGN WHEN YOUR CANDIDATE'S SO FAR BEHIND.
YOU NEVER KNOW, ABBY.
SOMETHING MAY COME ALONG THAT'LL TURN THE WHOLE RACE ON ITS HEAD.

THIS, FOR INSTANCE.
" FRONT-RUNNER ACCUSED OF STEALING KIDS' PETS AND SELLING THEM TO MAKERS OF LUXURY HANDBAGS"!?
10-25

THAT'S RIDICULOUS! NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE SUCH AN OBVIOUS SMEAR!
MAYBE I SHOULD LEAVE OUT THE PART ABOUT THE HANDBAGS.

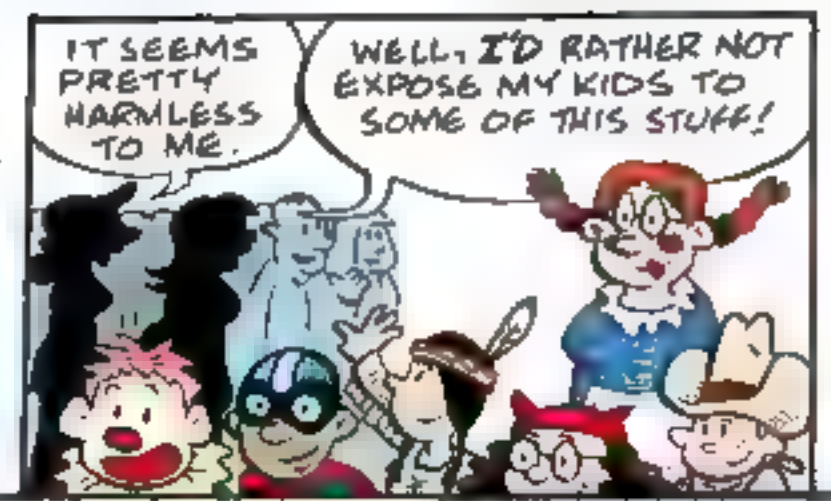

DAD, HAVE YOU STARTED FALSE RUMORS ABOUT MOM'S CANDIDATE?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THEY'RE FALSE, ABBY?
BECAUSE I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY STEALS KIDS' PETS AND SELLS THEM TO HANDBAG MANUFACTURERS!
WHAT IF I HAVE EVIDENCE?
YOU HAVE PICTURES?
NO.
YOU HAVE NAMES?
NOPE.
THEN WHAT'S YOUR EVIDENCE?
THERE ARE PHOTOS OF HIM HOLDING KIDS' PETS, BUT NONE OF HIM GIVING THEM BACK!


DAD, DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK ANYONE WILL BELIEVE MOM'S CANDIDATE STEALS LITTLE KIDS' PETS?
I'VE GOT WITNESSES, ABBY!
SEVERAL KIDS WHO WILL TESTIFY THAT HE STOLE THEIR PETS AND SOLD THEM TO LUXURY HANDBAG MAKERS!
10-27
WHERE DID YOU FIND THESE KIDS?
NEVER YOU MIND ABOUT THAT!
YOU'VE GOT MAIL!
TO: MADMORRIS @PLZV.COM RE: NEED SOME KIDS...
"I'LL SAY ANYTHING FOR $10, MISTER!"
DON'T TELL YOUR MOM, OK?

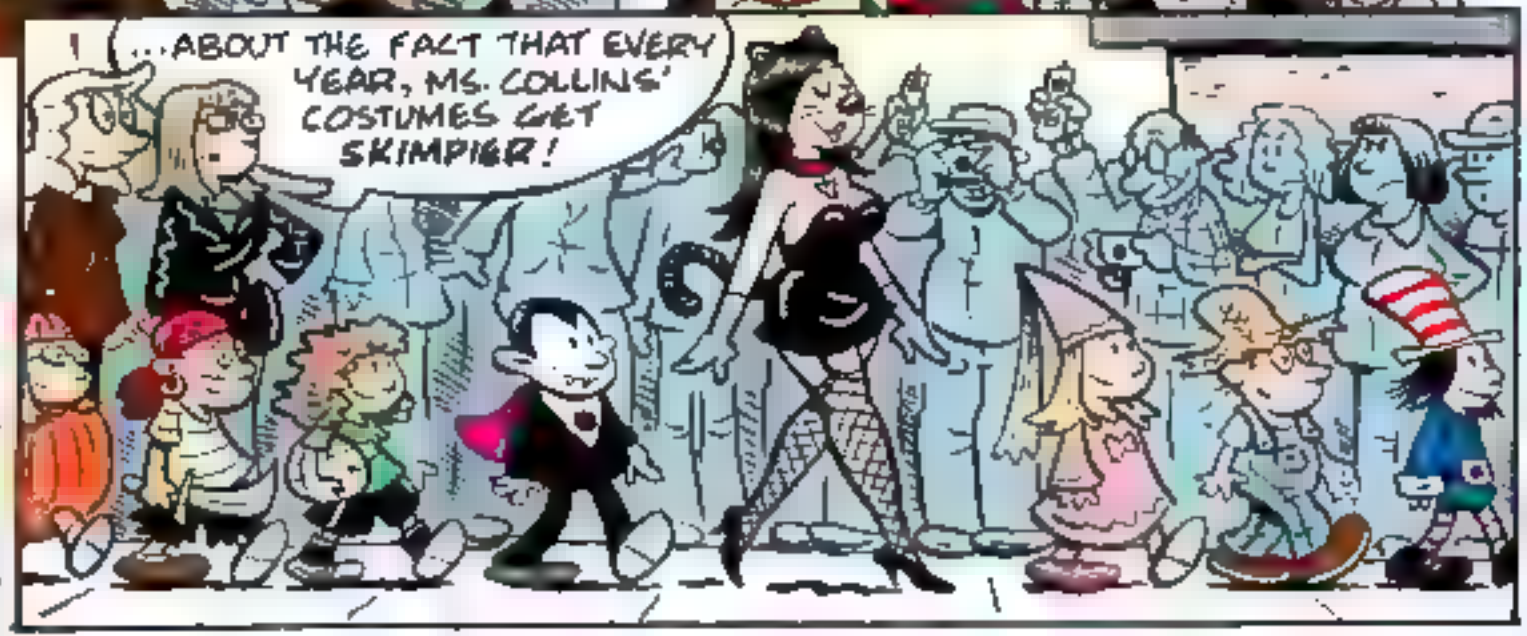
MORRIS, ARE YOU SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT MY CANDIDATE?
WHAT RUMORS? IT'S ALL TRUE!
TRUE MY EYE! YOU THINK YOU'RE KARL ROVE?
HEY, YOU CAN'T WIN ELECTIONS UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO PLAY HARD-BALL!
YOUR DAD'S STAYING WITH US TILL AFTER THE ELECTION?
YEAH-- MY MOM DECIDED TO PLAY HARDBALL.

IT'S ALWAYS FUN TO SEE THE HALLOWEEN PARADE!
I'M NOT SO SURE.

I'M STARTING TO THINK WE SHOULD BAN HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS, LIKE A LOT OF OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE!
REALLY?

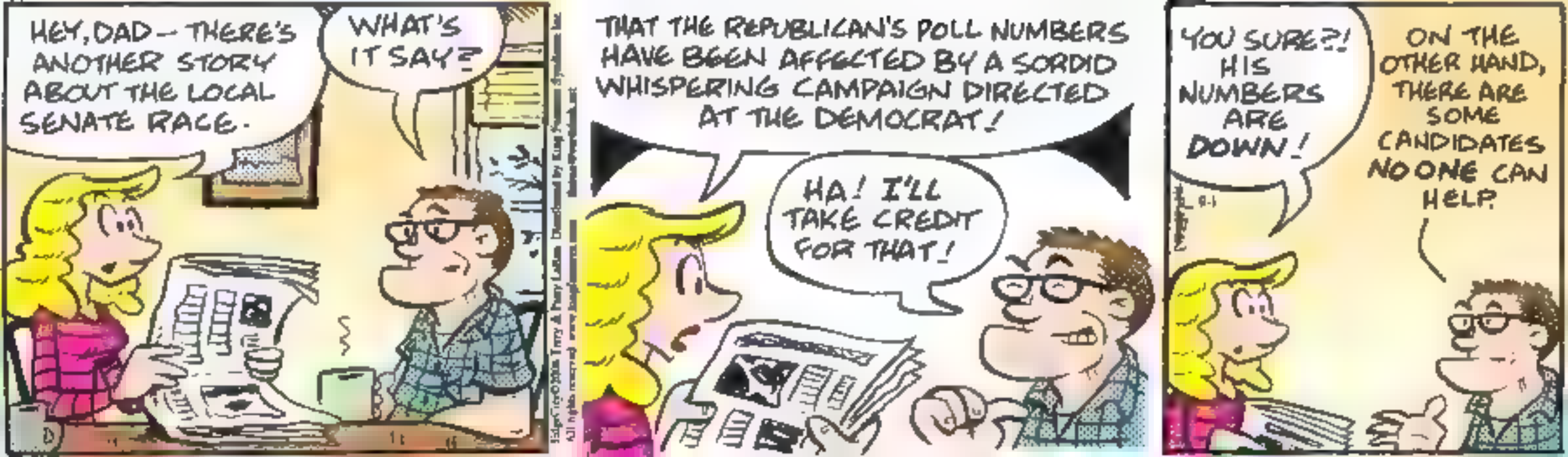

IT SEEMS PRETTY HARMLESS TO ME.
WELL, I'D RATHER NOT EXPOSE MY KIDS TO SOME OF THIS STUFF!

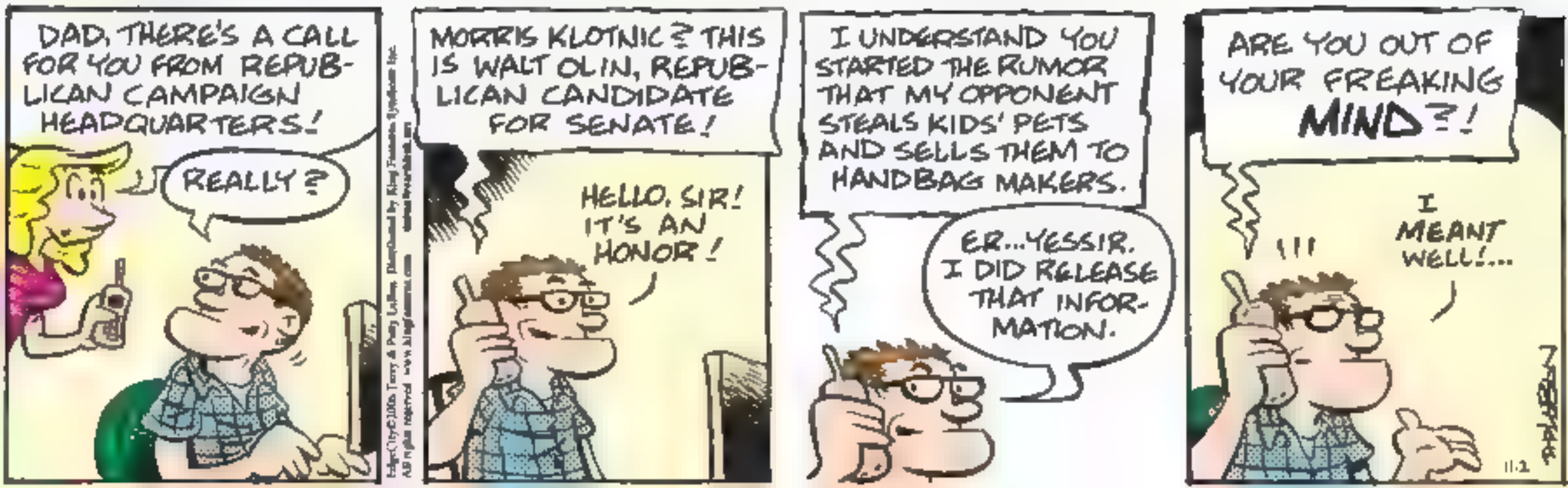
ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE REFERENCES TO DEMONS, MONSTERS AND DEATH?
NO...


...ABOUT THE FACT THAT EVERY YEAR, MS. COLLINS' COSTUMES GET SKIMPIER!

YOUR MOM KICKED YOUR DAD OUT BECAUSE OF THE ELECTION?
YEAH. HE STARTED A RUMOR THAT HER CANDIDATE STEALS KIDS' PETS AND SELLS THEM TO HANDBAG MAKERS.
TALK ABOUT DIRTY POLITICS!
I TOLD HIM WE WEREN'T GOING TO TOLERATE ANY OF THAT STUFF IN OUR HOUSE!
WE HAVE TO MEET BEHIND THE GARAGE.
WHEN DO WE GET OUR $10?
WHERE'S BUTCH?

"KIDS ACCUSE FRONT-RUNNER OF STEALING THEIR PETS"
OMIGOSH, DAD! THAT RUMOR YOU STARTED IS A BIG STORY!
HEH HEH! I KNEW IT'D WORK!
WHEN MY CANDIDATE LEARNS I PUT OUT THAT INFORMATION, HE'LL PROBABLY HIRE ME AS A CONSULTANT!
WHAT IF THERE'S A BACKLASH AND HE ENDS UP GETTING HURT?
10-31
DENIABILITY IS PART OF THE PLAN.
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!


HEY, DAD – THERE'S ANOTHER STORY ABOUT THE LOCAL SENATE RACE.
WHAT'S IT SAY?
THAT THE REPUBLICAN'S POLL NUMBERS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY A SORDID WHISPERING CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AT THE DEMOCRAT!
HA! I'LL TAKE CREDIT FOR THAT!
YOU SURE?! HIS NUMBERS ARE DOWN!
ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE SOME CANDIDATES NO ONE CAN HELP.


DAD, THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU FROM REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS!
REALLY?
MORRIS KLOTNIC? THIS IS WALT OLIN, REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR SENATE!
HELLO, SIR! IT'S AN HONOR!
I UNDERSTAND YOU STARTED THE RUMOR THAT MY OPPONENT STEALS KIDS' PETS AND SELLS THEM TO HANDBAG MAKERS.
ER...YESSIR. I DID RELEASE THAT INFORMATION.
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR FREAKING MIND?!
!!!
I MEANT WELL!...
11-2

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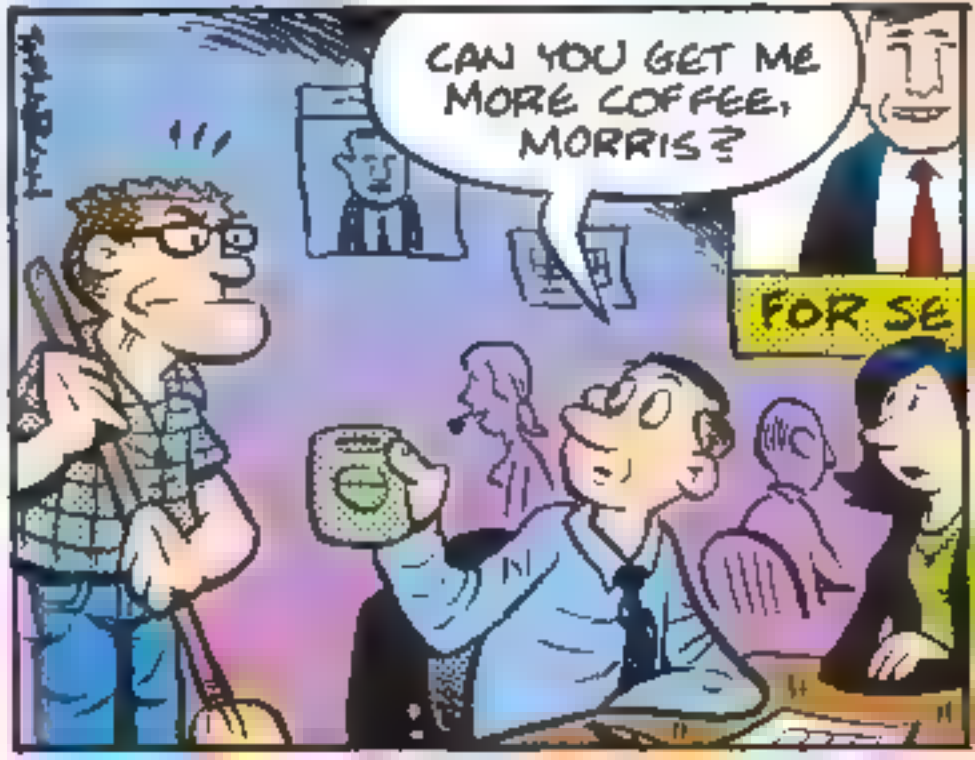

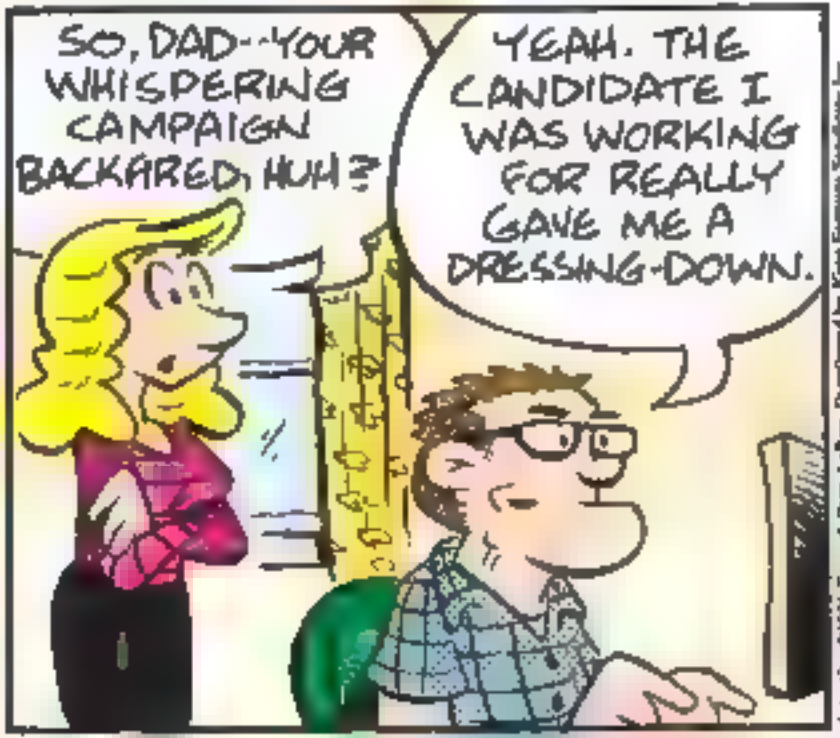


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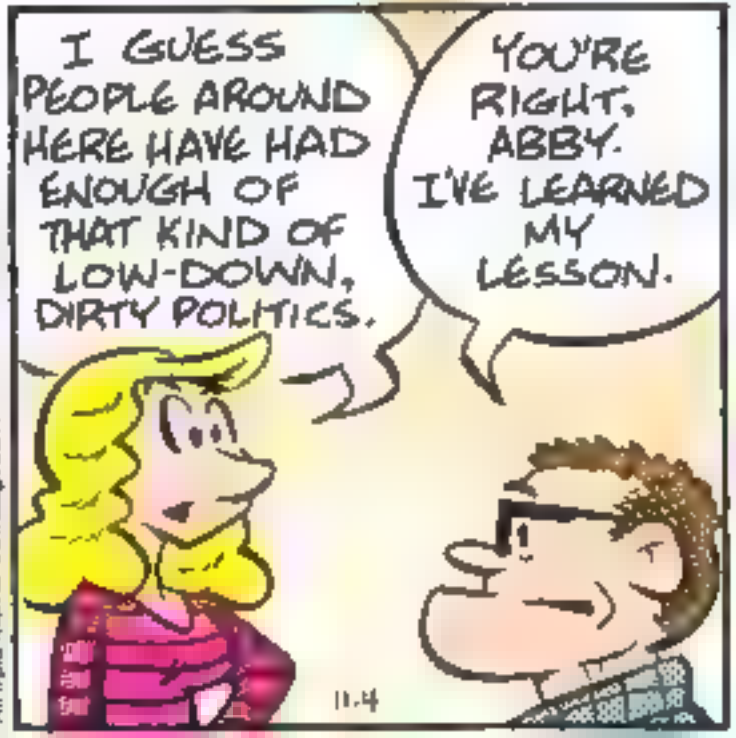

9:00 AM
11:20 AM
2:40 PM
4:00 PM
11:30 PM
Y'KNOW, LEN -- LATELY IT SEEMS LIKE WE HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO EACH OTHER.

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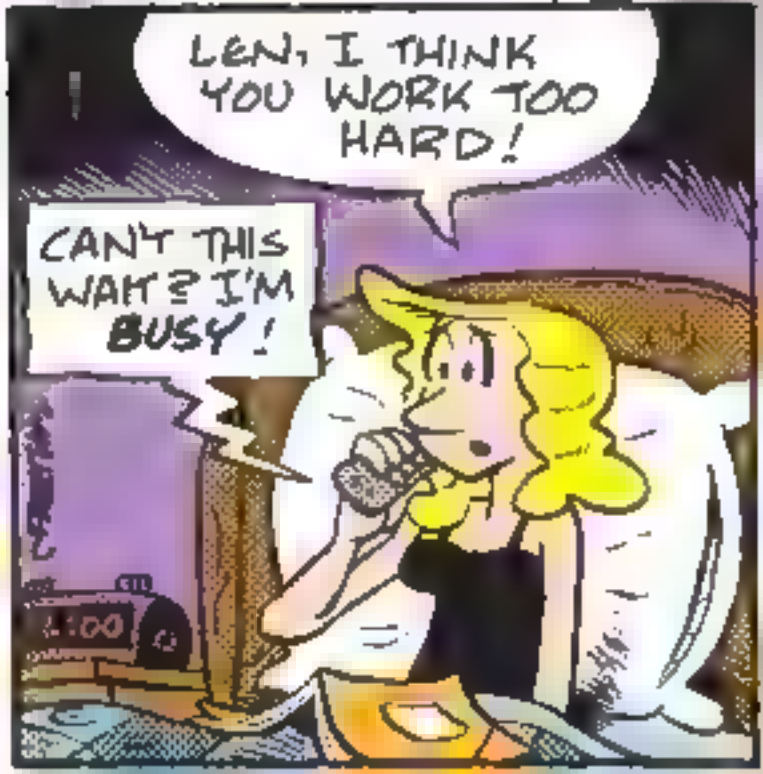
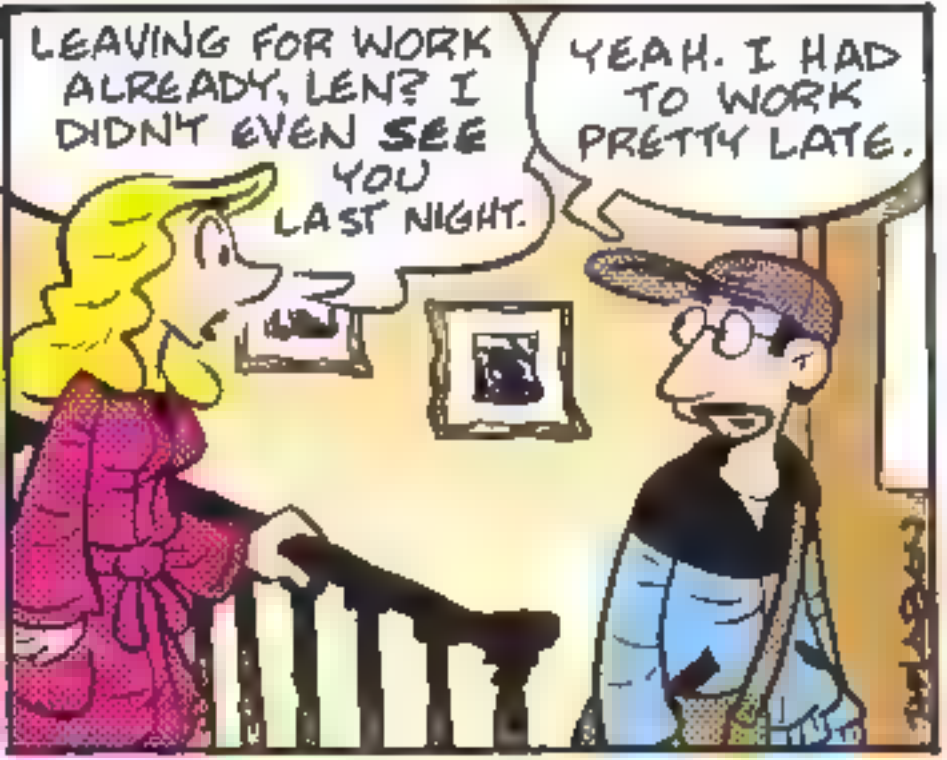
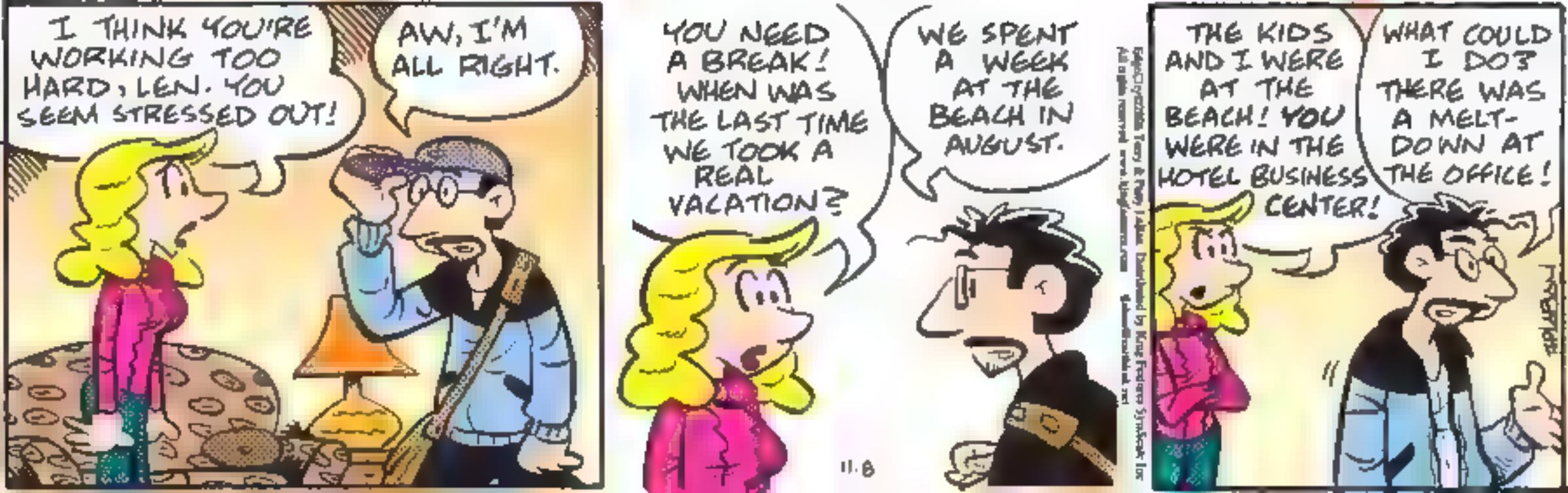
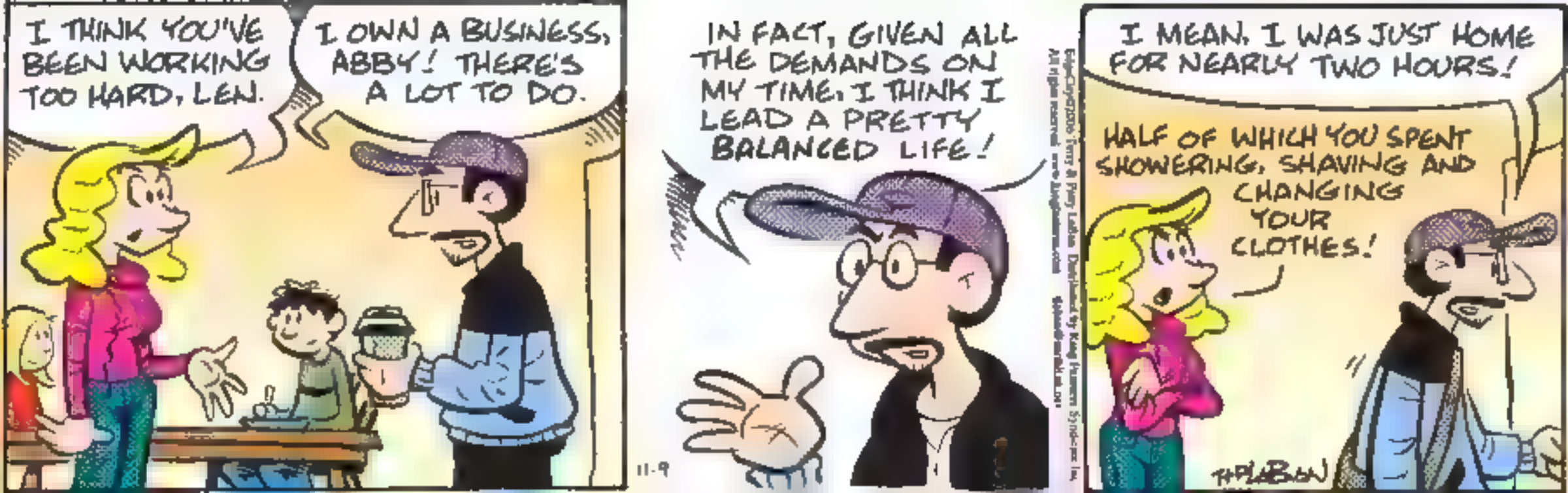


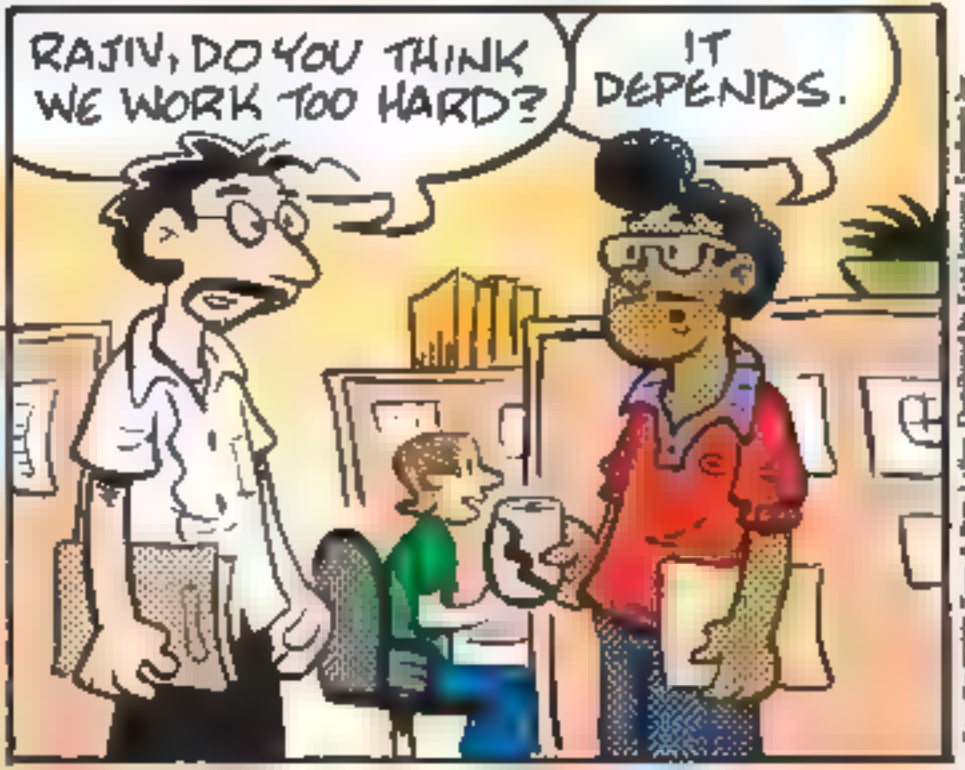

LEAVING FOR WORK ALREADY, LEN? I DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOU LAST NIGHT.
YEAH. I HAD TO WORK PRETTY LATE.

I'M WORRIED THAT YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD!
I DON'T THINK I WORK HARDER THAN ANYONE ELSE WHO OWNS A BUSINESS.

WHEN DID YOU FINALLY GET HOME?
ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.


I THINK YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD, LEN. YOU SEEM STRESSED OUT!
AW, I'M ALL RIGHT.
YOU NEED A BREAK! WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE TOOK A REAL VACATION?
WE SPENT A WEEK AT THE BEACH IN AUGUST.
THE KIDS AND I WERE AT THE BEACH! YOU WERE IN THE HOTEL BUSINESS CENTER!
WHAT COULD I DO? THERE WAS A MELT-DOWN AT THE OFFICE!


I THINK YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD, LEN.
I OWN A BUSINESS, ABBY! THERE'S A LOT TO DO.
IN FACT, GIVEN ALL THE DEMANDS ON MY TIME, I THINK I LEAD A PRETTY BALANCED LIFE!
I MEAN, I WAS JUST HOME FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS!
HALF OF WHICH YOU SPENT SHOWERING, SHAVING AND CHANGING YOUR CLOTHES!
11-9
TRPLABON

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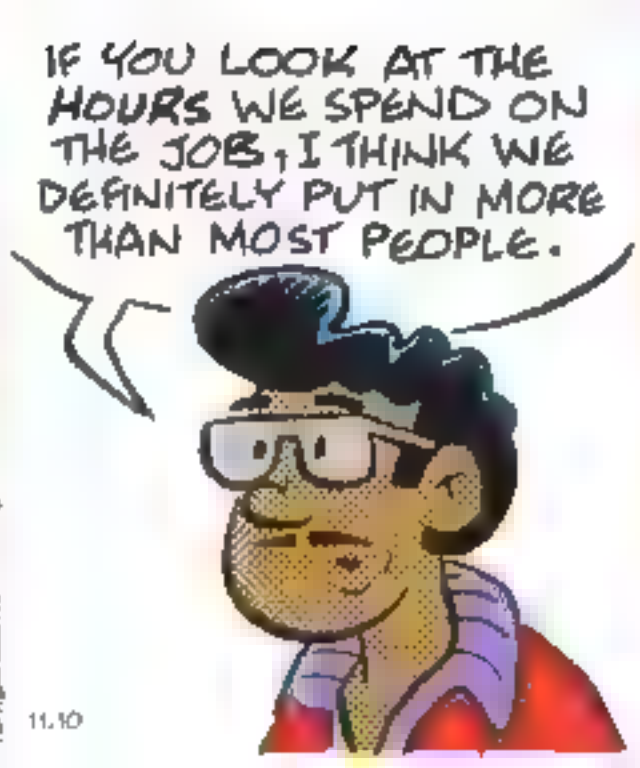
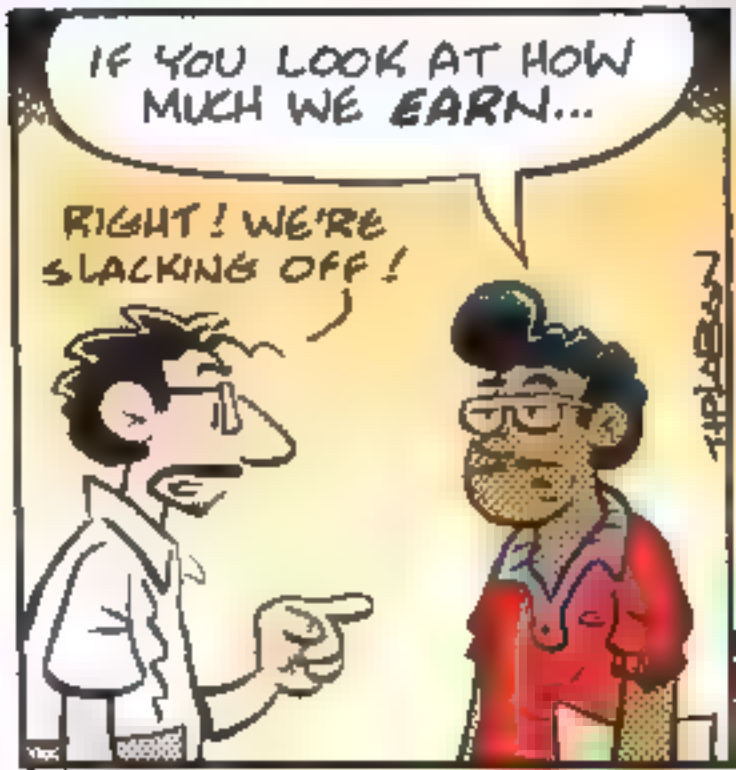
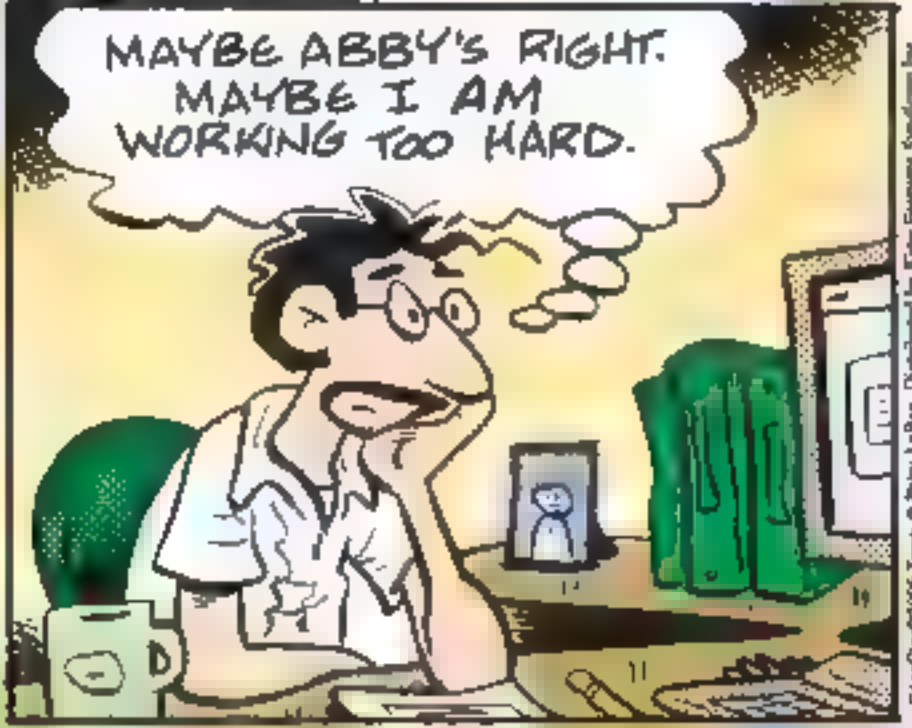



11.10



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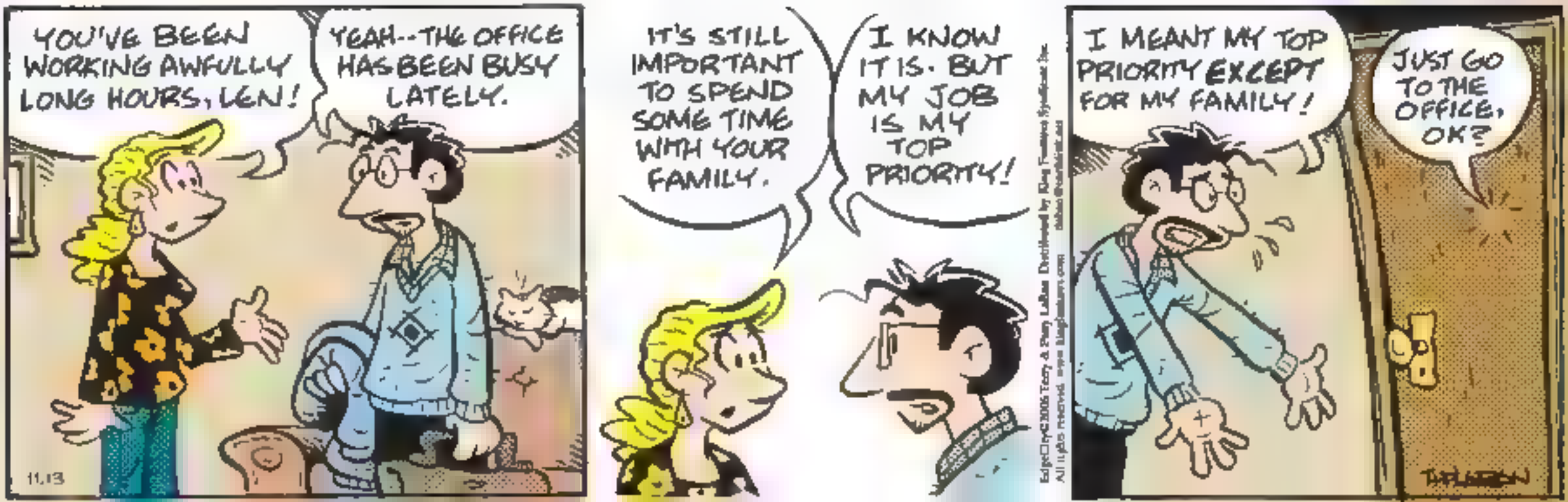
Y'KNOW, IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I HAD A DEEP, PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION WITH ANYONE.

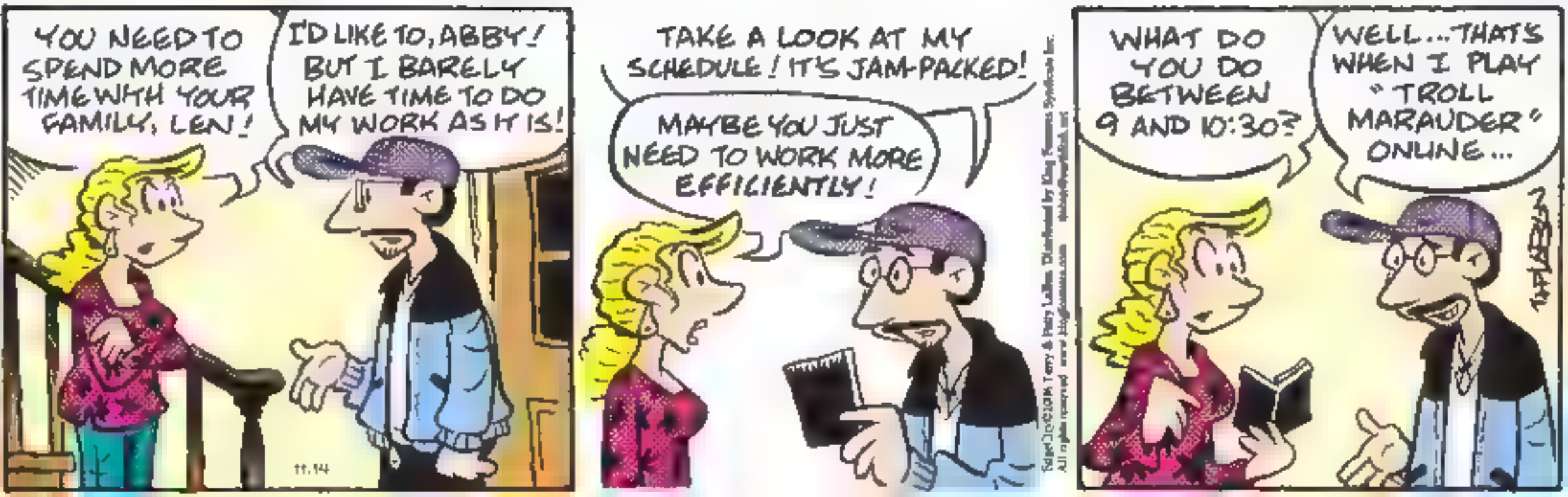
I USED TO HAVE THEM ALL THE TIME IN COLLEGE. LONG CONVERSATIONS THAT'D SOMETIMES LAST ALL NIGHT.

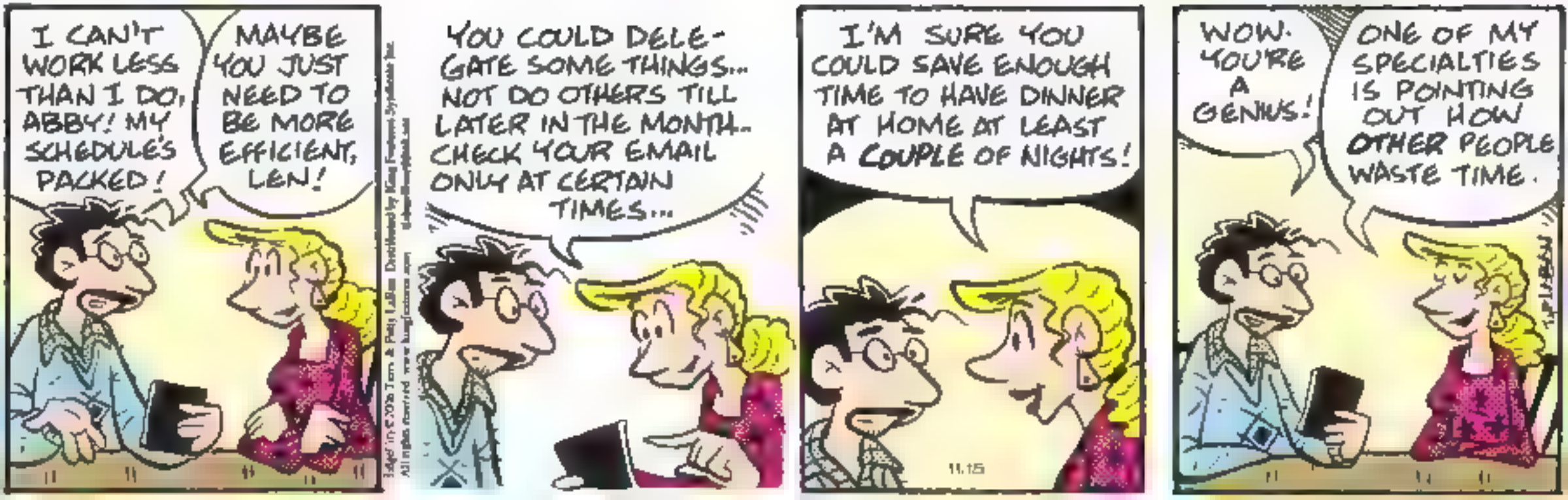
WHY HAVE WE STOPPED ASKING OURSELVES THE BIG QUESTIONS? LIKE, WHO ARE WE? AND WHY ARE WE HERE?
11-12

WE'RE MIDDLE-AGED SCHLEPS. WE'RE HERE TO FEED OUR KIDS AND PLEASE OUR WIVES.

WE'VE STOPPED ASKING OURSELVES THE QUESTIONS BECAUSE NOW WE KNOW THE ANSWERS.
MAN, I COULD TEACH PHILOSOPHY!
SIGH!


YOU'VE BEEN WORKING AWFULLY LONG HOURS, LEN!
YEAH--THE OFFICE HAS BEEN BUSY LATELY.
11.13
IT'S STILL IMPORTANT TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY.
I KNOW IT IS. BUT MY JOB IS MY TOP PRIORITY!
I MEANT MY TOP PRIORITY EXCEPT FOR MY FAMILY!
JUST GO TO THE OFFICE, OK?


YOU NEED TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY, LEN!
I'D LIKE TO, ABBY! BUT I BARELY HAVE TIME TO DO MY WORK AS IT IS!
11.14
TAKE A LOOK AT MY SCHEDULE! IT'S JAM-PACKED!
MAYBE YOU JUST NEED TO WORK MORE EFFICIENTLY!
WHAT DO YOU DO BETWEEN 9 AND 10:30?
WELL... THAT'S WHEN I PLAY "TROLL MARAUDER" ONLINE...


I CAN'T WORK LESS THAN I DO, ABBY! MY SCHEDULE'S PACKED!
MAYBE YOU JUST NEED TO BE MORE EFFICIENT, LEN!
YOU COULD DELEGATE SOME THINGS... NOT DO OTHERS TILL LATER IN THE MONTH.. CHECK YOUR EMAIL ONLY AT CERTAIN TIMES...
I'M SURE YOU COULD SAVE ENOUGH TIME TO HAVE DINNER AT HOME AT LEAST A COUPLE OF NIGHTS!
WOW. YOU'RE A GENIUS!
ONE OF MY SPECIALTIES IS POINTING OUT HOW OTHER PEOPLE WASTE TIME.

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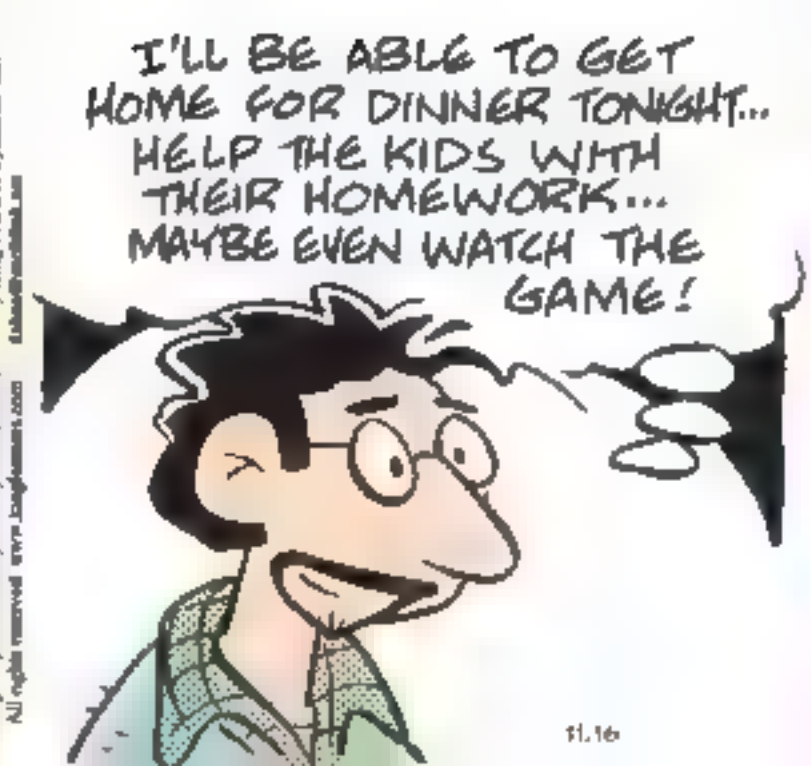
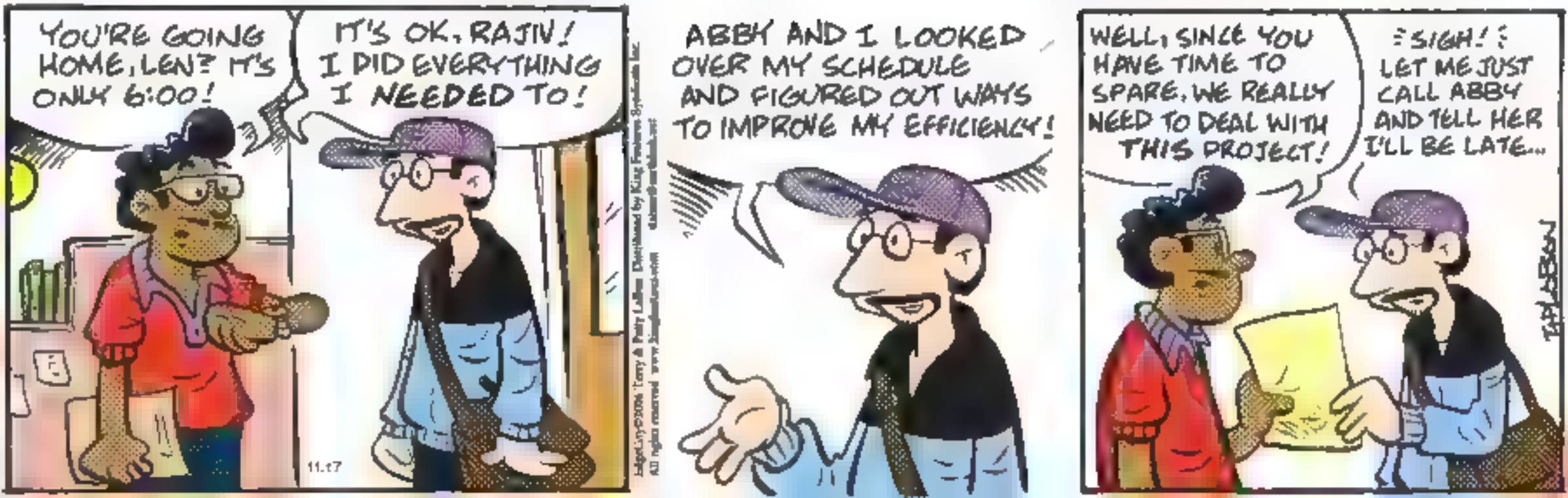
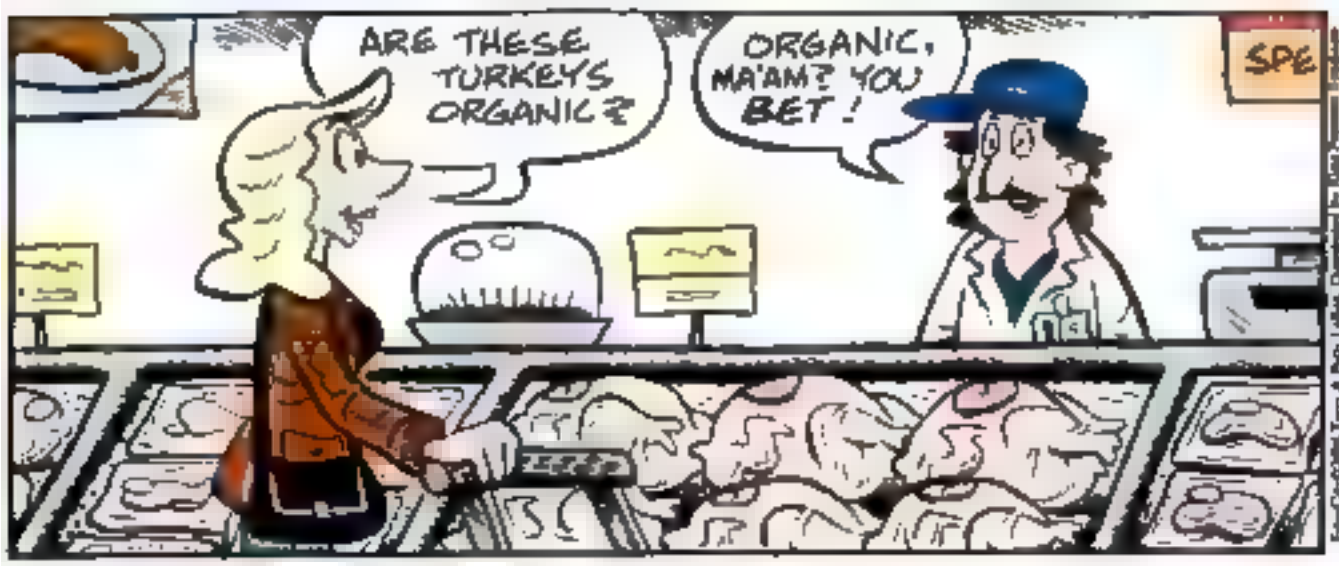



YOU'RE GOING HOME, LEN? IT'S ONLY 6:00!
IT'S OK, RAJIV! I DID EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO!
11.17
ABBY AND I LOOKED OVER MY SCHEDULE AND FIGURED OUT WAYS TO IMPROVE MY EFFICIENCY!
WELL, SINCE YOU HAVE TIME TO SPARE, WE REALLY NEED TO DEAL WITH THIS PROJECT!
:SIGH!: LET ME JUST CALL ABBY AND TELL HER I'LL BE LATE...

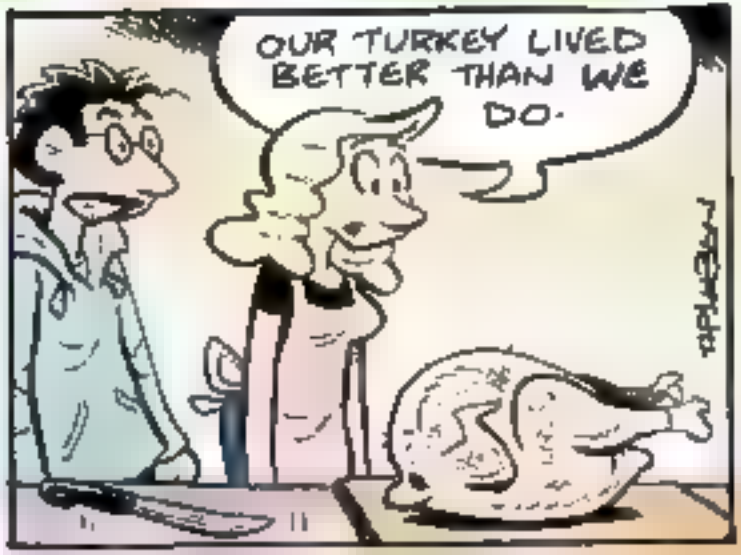
HI, ABBY-- IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE IN THE OFFICE LATE TONIGHT.
LEN, THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK!
DIDN'T WE JUST FIGURE OUT WAYS FOR YOU TO DO THINGS MORE EFFICIENTLY SO YOU'D HAVE MORE FREE TIME?
YEAH! AND IT WORKED!
11.18
NOW WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WAYS FOR ME TO SAY "NO."
OH, LEN-- ANOTHER THING!...

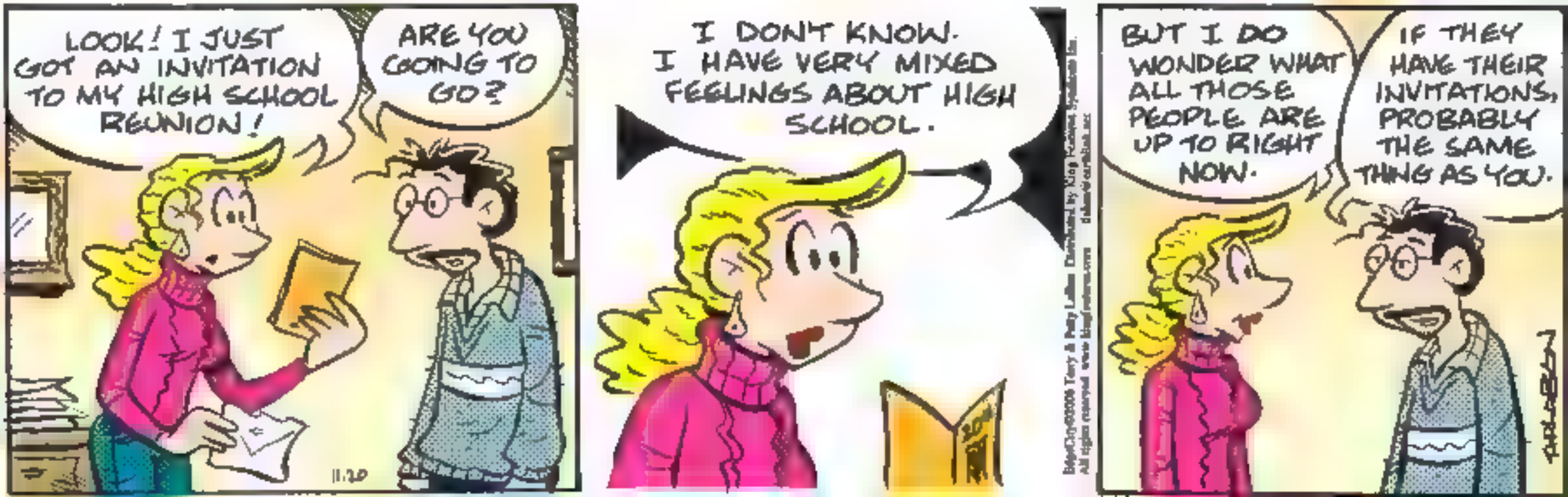

ARE THESE TURKEYS ORGANIC?
ORGANIC, MA'AM? YOU BET!
SPE

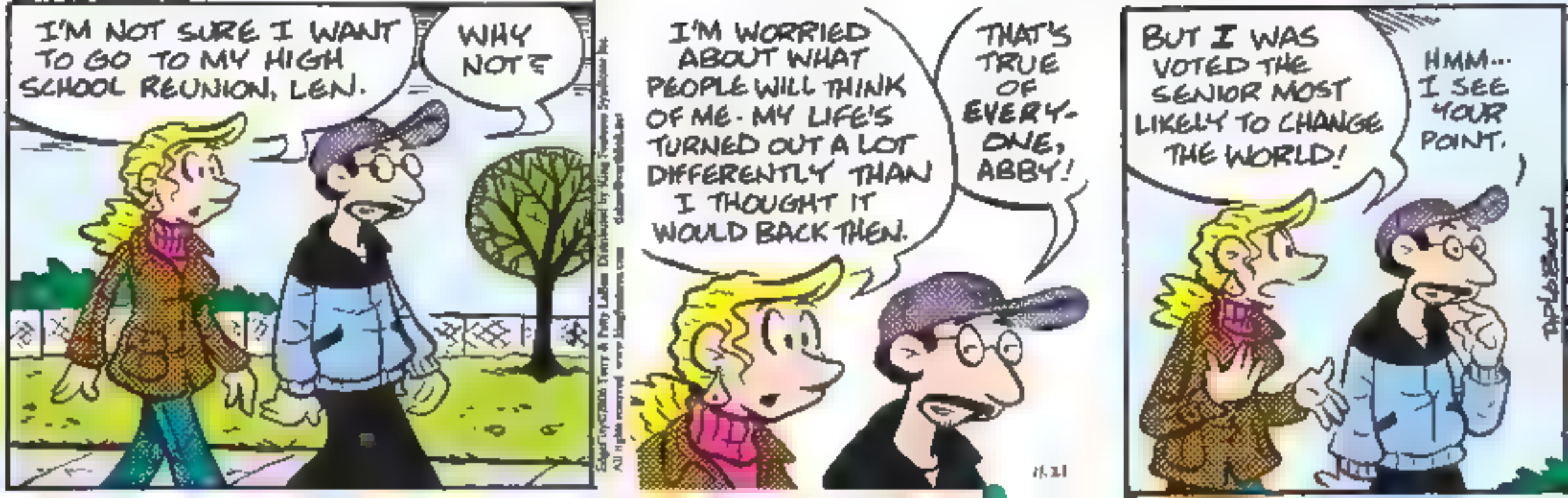
THEY WERE FED NOTHING BUT WHOLE GRAINS, HARVESTED BY HAND...
... AND DRANK ONLY FILTERED WATER FROM CLEAR MOUNTAIN SPRINGS.

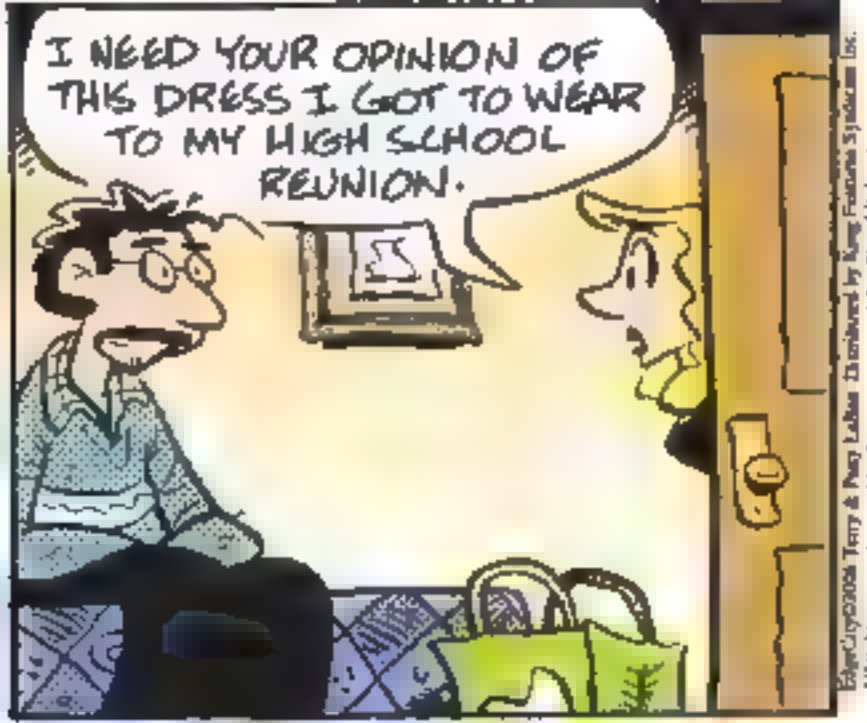
EACH ONE ALSO HAD A PRIVATE, AIR-CONDITIONED ROOM OVERLOOKING FIELDS WHERE IT COULD ROAM FREE...

... AND FOLLOWED A DAILY REGIMEN THAT INCLUDED AEROBICS, AROMATHERAPY AND SWEDISH MASSAGE!


OUR TURKEY LIVED BETTER THAN WE DO.

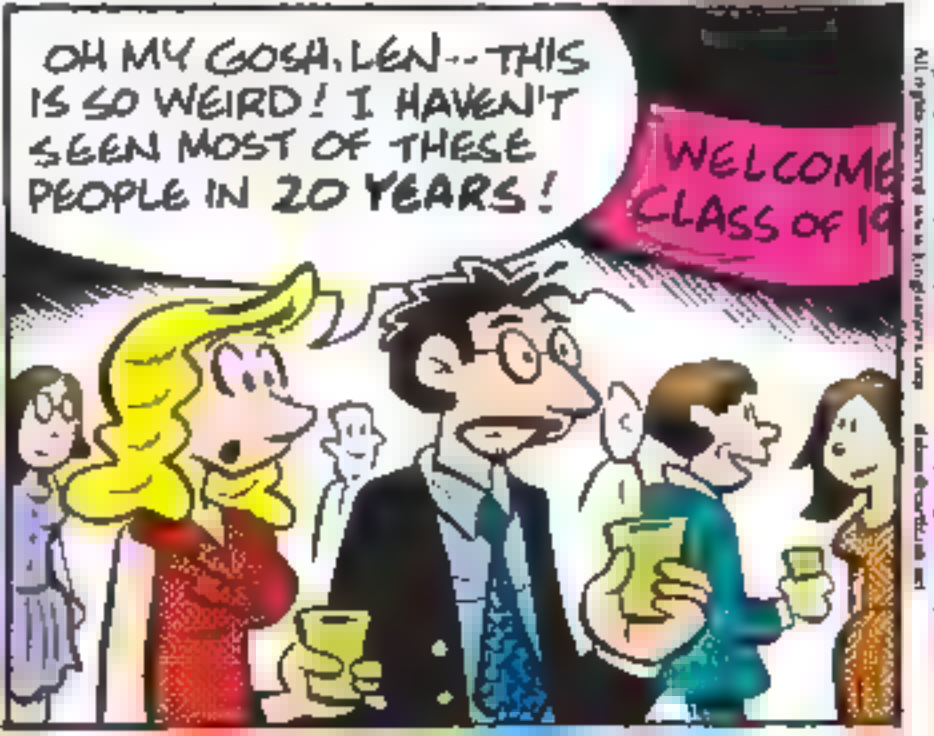

LOOK! I JUST GOT AN INVITATION TO MY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION!
ARE YOU GOING TO GO?
I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE VERY MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL.
BUT I DO WONDER WHAT ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE UP TO RIGHT NOW.
IF THEY HAVE THEIR INVITATIONS, PROBABLY THE SAME THING AS YOU.


I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO GO TO MY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION, LEN.
WHY NOT?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE WILL THINK OF ME - MY LIFE'S TURNED OUT A LOT DIFFERENTLY THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BACK THEN.
THAT'S TRUE OF EVERY-ONE, ABBY!
BUT I WAS VOTED THE SENIOR MOST LIKELY TO CHANGE THE WORLD!
HMM... I SEE YOUR POINT.


I NEED YOUR OPINION OF THIS DRESS I GOT TO WEAR TO MY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION.

I WANT SOMETHING THAT SAYS "I'M NOT A NERD ANYMORE".

DO YOU WANT SOMETHING THAT SAYS IT... OR SCREAMS IT?
IT'S A LITTLE MUCH, HUH?
11-27

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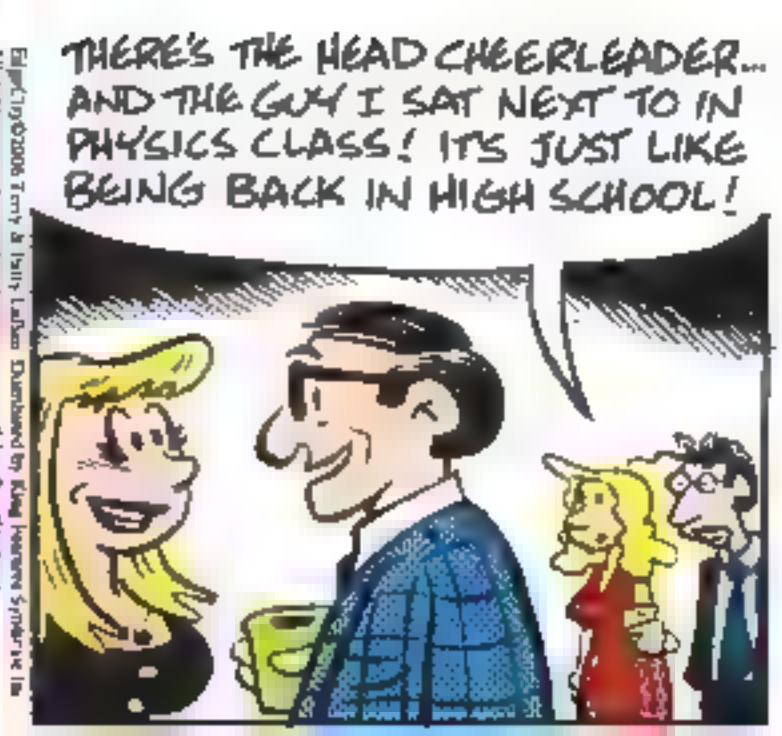
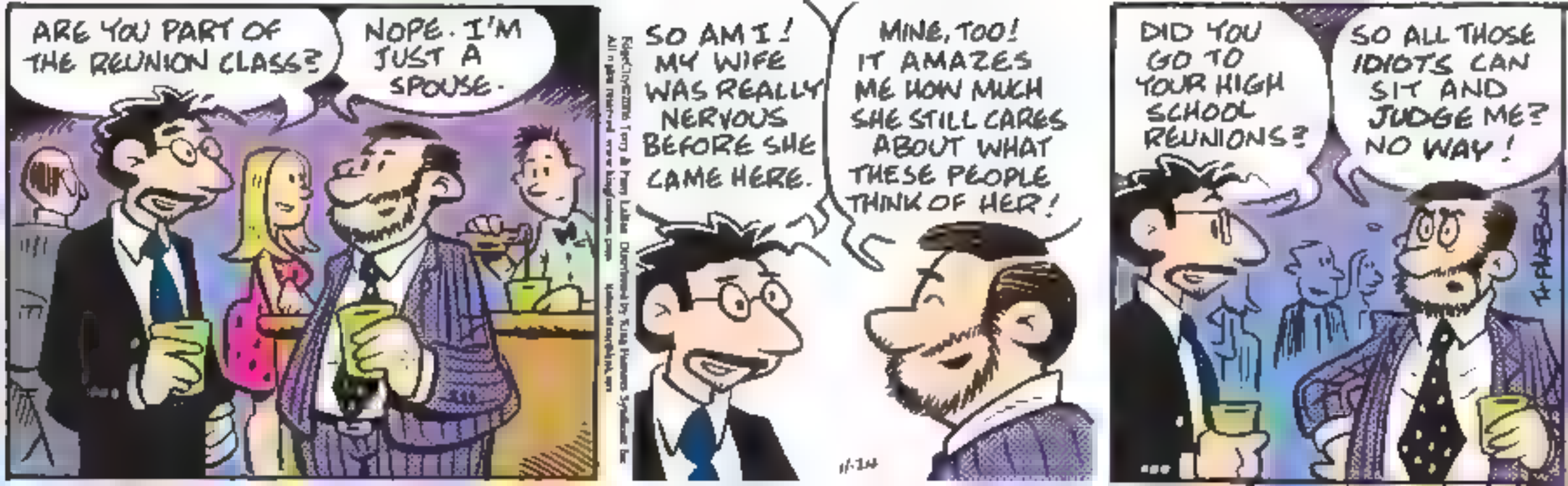
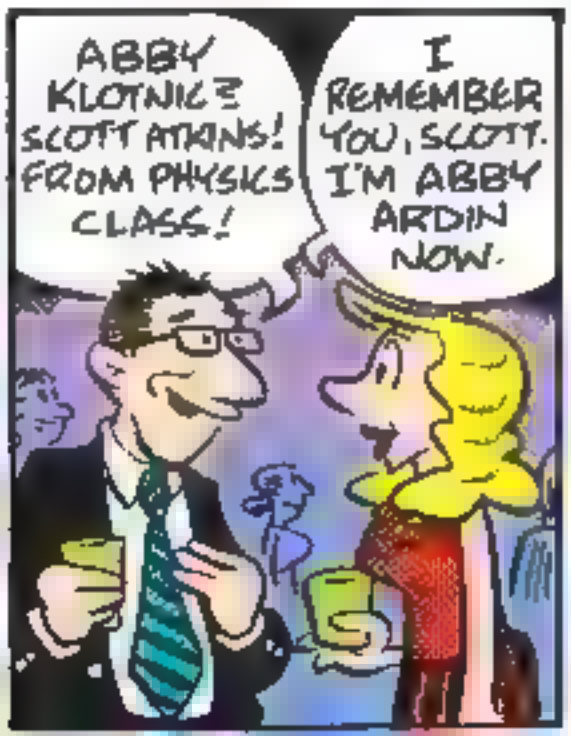
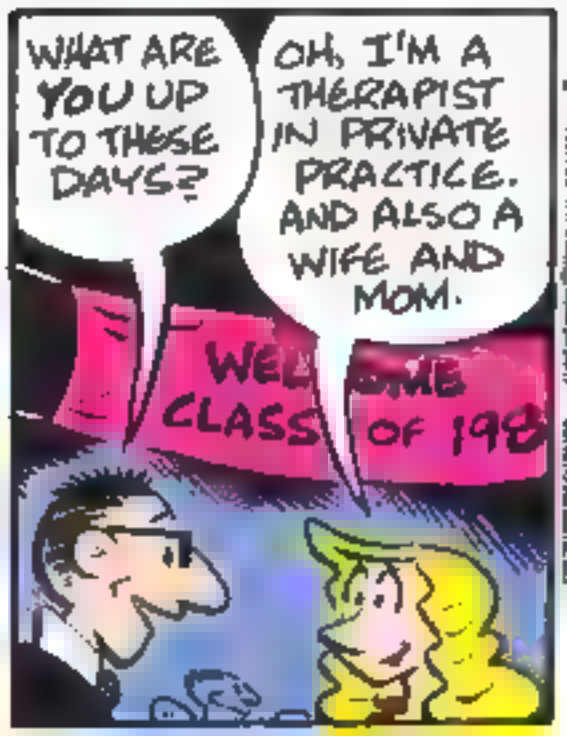
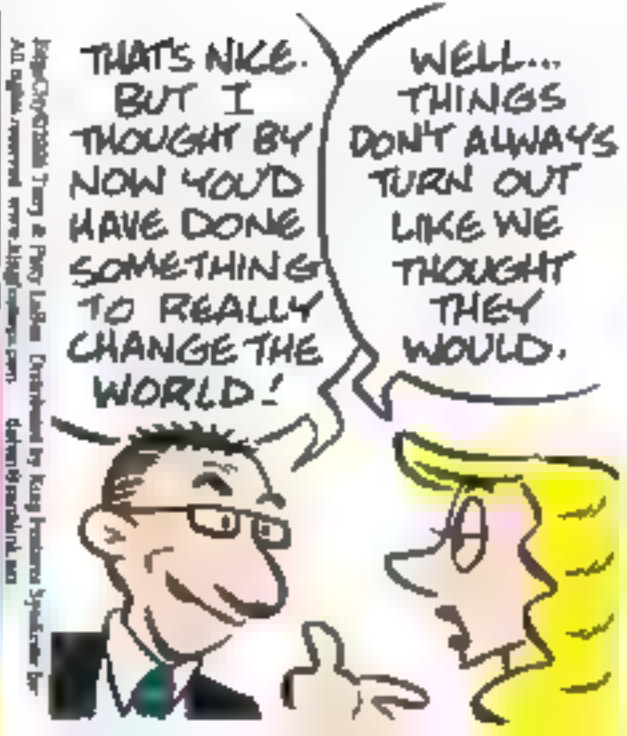



ARE YOU PART OF THE REUNION CLASS?
NOPE. I'M JUST A SPOUSE.
SO AM I! MY WIFE WAS REALLY NERVOUS BEFORE SHE CAME HERE.
MINE, TOO! IT AMAZES ME HOW MUCH SHE STILL CARES ABOUT WHAT THESE PEOPLE THINK OF HER!
DID YOU GO TO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL REUNIONS?
SO ALL THOSE IDIOTS CAN SIT AND JUDGE ME? NO WAY!


ABBY KLOTNIK? SCOTT ATKINS! FROM PHYSICS CLASS!
I REMEMBER YOU, SCOTT. I'M ABBY ARDIN NOW.


WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THESE DAYS?
OH, I'M A THERAPIST IN PRIVATE PRACTICE. AND ALSO A WIFE AND MOM.
WEL
CLASS
OF 198


THAT'S NICE. BUT I THOUGHT BY NOW YOU'D HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO REALLY CHANGE THE WORLD!
WELL... THINGS DON'T ALWAYS TURN OUT LIKE WE THOUGHT THEY WOULD.

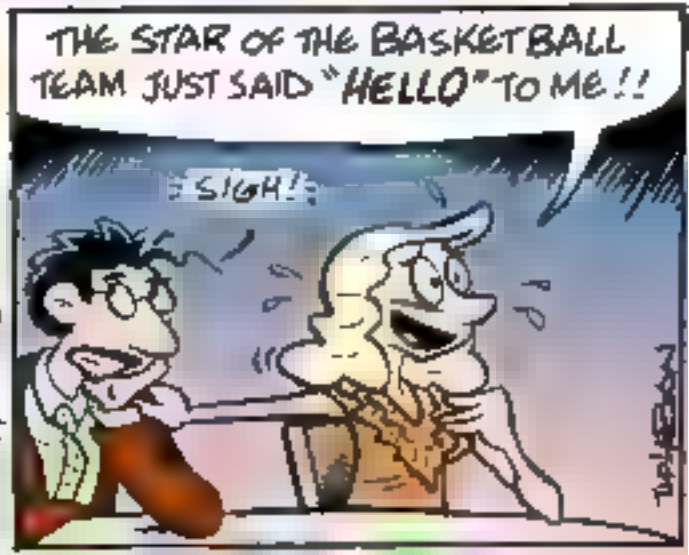
SO...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I JUST GOT OUT OF JAIL.

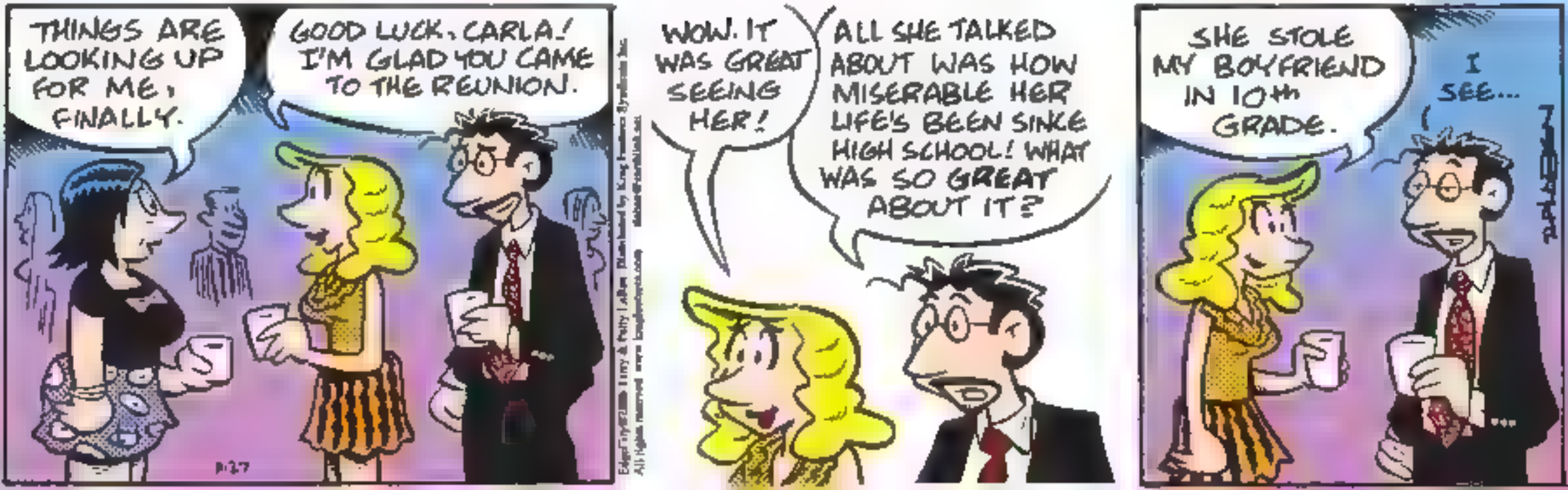
ENJOYING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION, ABBY?
I AM, LEN. I'M SURPRISED HOW NICE IT IS TO SEE EVERYBODY.
CLASS OF 1986
86

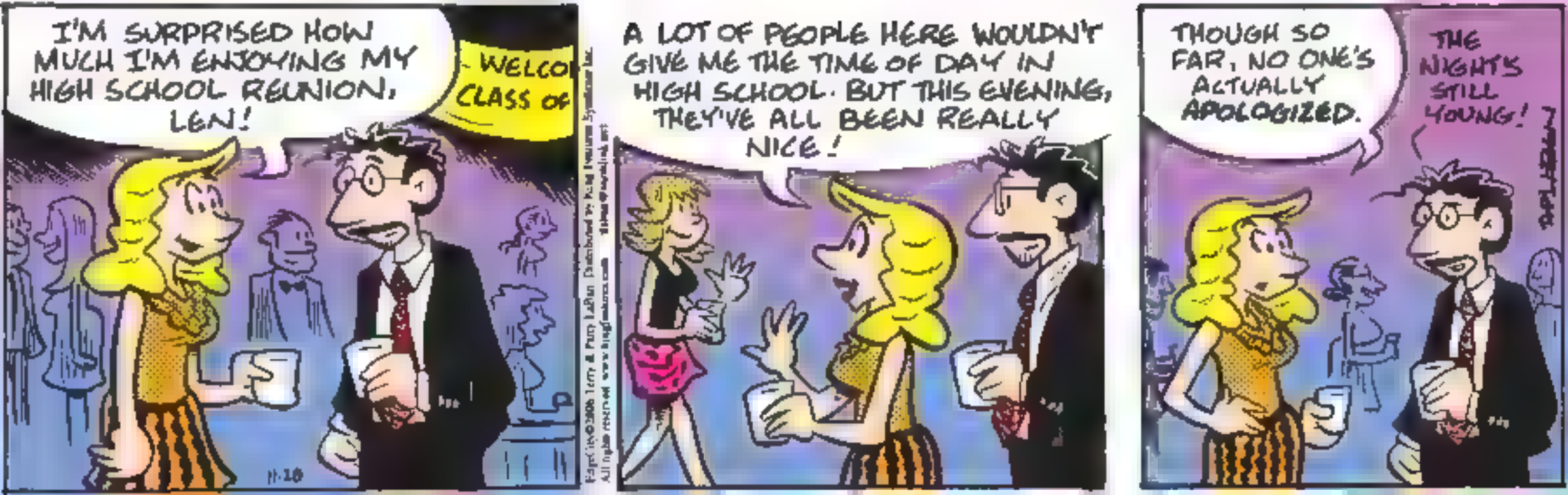
HIGH SCHOOL WAS SO CLIQUEY. THE JOCKS DIDN'T TALK TO THE BRAINS, THE BAND KIDS DIDN'T TALK TO THE BURNOUTS, THE CHEERLEADERS DIDN'T TALK TO ANYONE...

BUT NO ONE CARES ABOUT THAT STUFF ANYMORE. WE'RE ALL JUST REGULAR PEOPLE, MOVING INTO MIDDLE AGE.

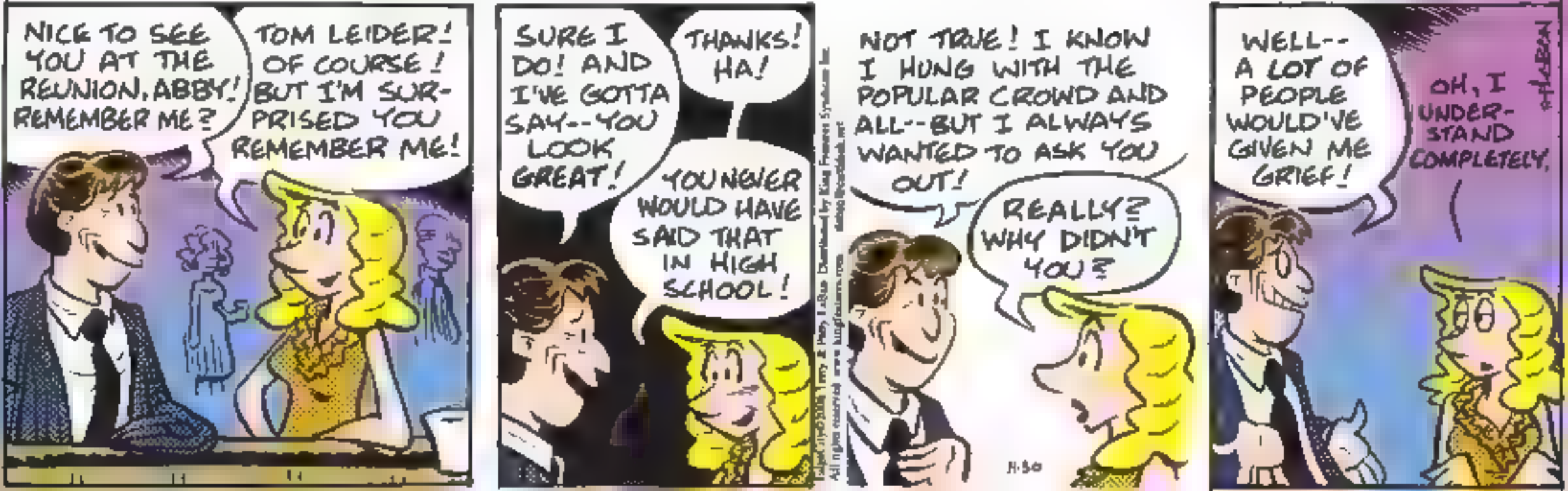
HEY, ABBY!
C-CAL! HI!

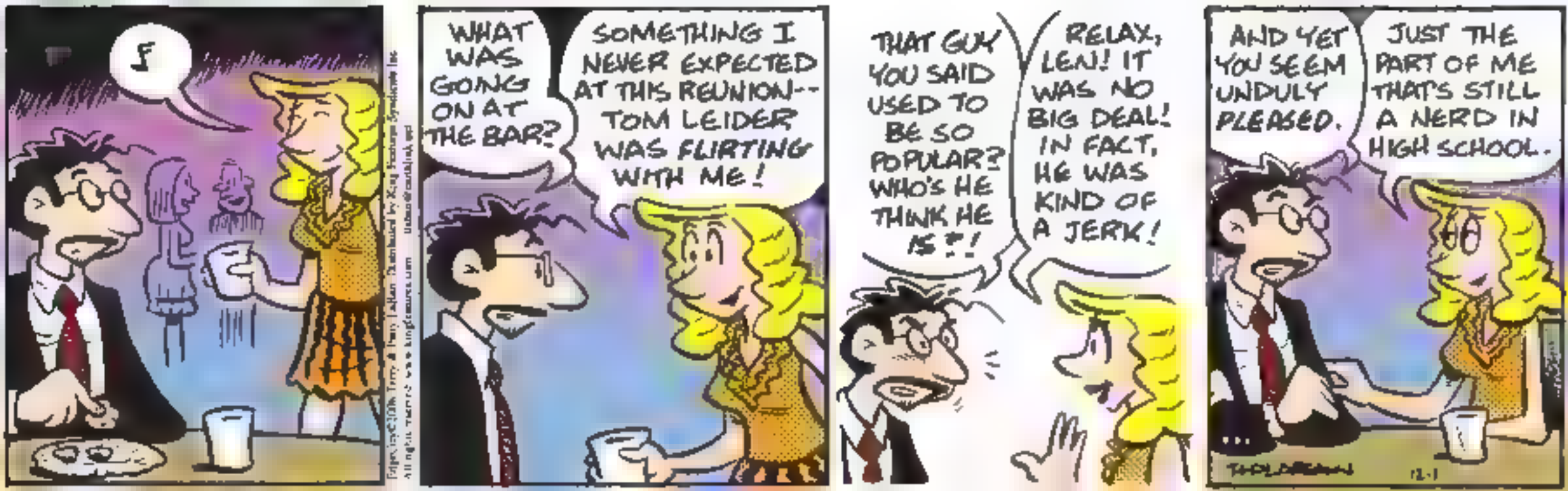

THE STAR OF THE BASKETBALL TEAM JUST SAID "HELLO" TO ME!!
SIGH!

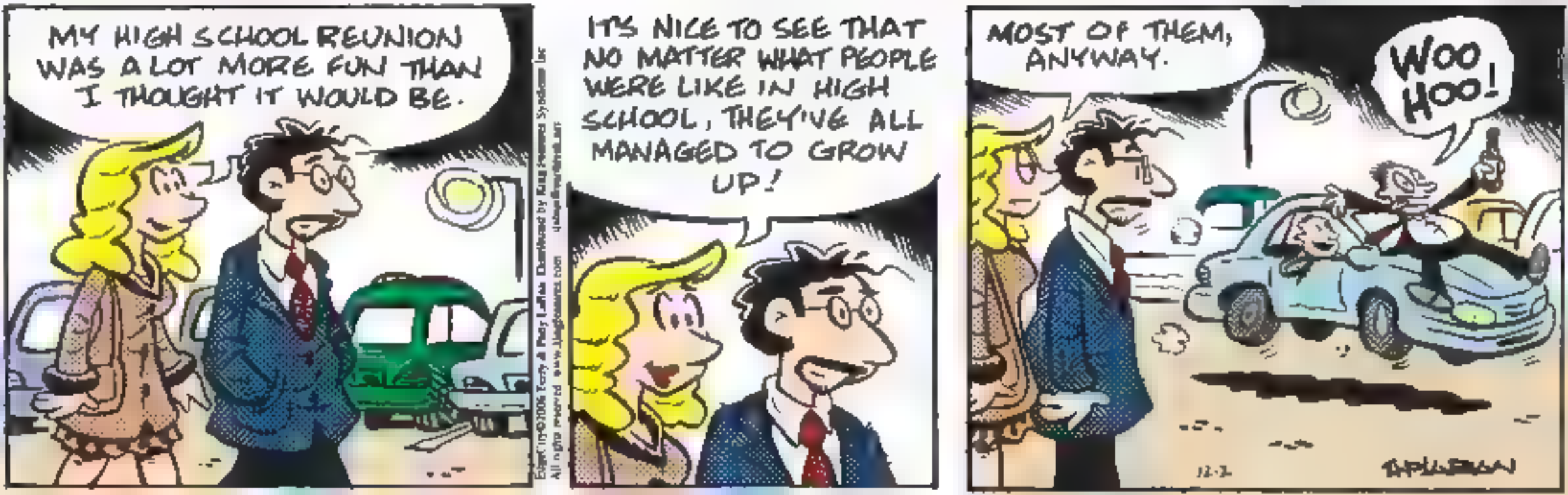

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP FOR ME, FINALLY.
GOOD LUCK, CARLA! I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO THE REUNION.
WOW. IT WAS GREAT SEEING HER!
ALL SHE TALKED ABOUT WAS HOW MISERABLE HER LIFE'S BEEN SINCE HIGH SCHOOL! WHAT WAS SO GREAT ABOUT IT?
SHE STOLE MY BOYFRIEND IN 10th GRADE.
I SEE...

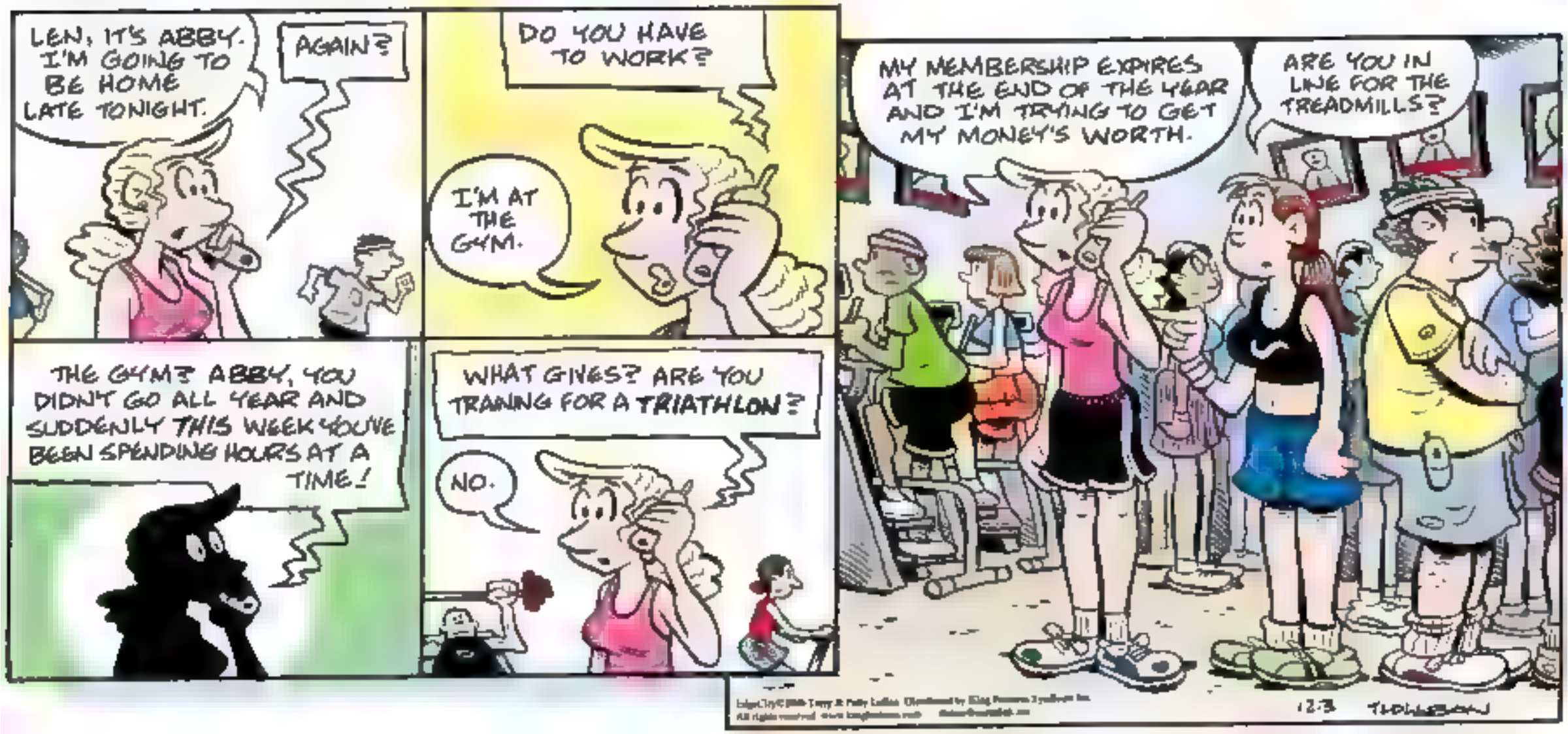

I'M SURPRISED HOW MUCH I'M ENJOYING MY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION, LEN!
WELCO
CLASS OF
A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE WOULDN'T GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY IN HIGH SCHOOL. BUT THIS EVENING, THEY'VE ALL BEEN REALLY NICE!
THOUGH SO FAR, NO ONE'S ACTUALLY APOLOGIZED.
THE NIGHT'S STILL YOUNG!

HEY, TOM LEIDER CAME TO THE REUNION! HE WAS THE MOST POPULAR GUY IN MY HIGH SCHOOL!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY "HI" TO HIM, ABBY?
HE WOULDN'T REMEMBER ME, LEN. HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I EXISTED!
I'M GOING TO GET ANOTHER DRINK.
OK!
REMEMBER ME, ABBY? TOM LEIDER!
!
THALABAN


NICE TO SEE YOU AT THE REUNION, ABBY! REMEMBER ME?
TOM LEIDER! OF COURSE! BUT I'M SURPRISED YOU REMEMBER ME!
SURE I DO! AND I'VE GOTTA SAY--YOU LOOK GREAT!
THANKS! HA!
YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE SAID THAT IN HIGH SCHOOL!
NOT TRUE! I KNOW I HUNG WITH THE POPULAR CROWD AND ALL--BUT I ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU OUT!
REALLY? WHY DIDN'T YOU?
WELL-- A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD'VE GIVEN ME GRIEF!
OH, I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY.


WHAT WAS GOING ON AT THE BAR?
SOMETHING I NEVER EXPECTED AT THIS REUNION-- TOM LEIDER WAS FLIRTING WITH ME!
THAT GUY YOU SAID USED TO BE SO POPULAR? WHO'S HE THINK HE IS?!
RELAX, LEN! IT WAS NO BIG DEAL! IN FACT, HE WAS KIND OF A JERK!
AND YET YOU SEEM UNDULY PLEASED.
JUST THE PART OF ME THAT'S STILL A NERD IN HIGH SCHOOL.


MY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION WAS A LOT MORE FUN THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
IT'S NICE TO SEE THAT NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE WERE LIKE IN HIGH SCHOOL, THEY'VE ALL MANAGED TO GROW UP!
MOST OF THEM, ANYWAY.
WOO HOO!


LEN, IT'S ABBY. I'M GOING TO BE HOME LATE TONIGHT.
AGAIN?
DO YOU HAVE TO WORK?
I'M AT THE GYM.
THE GYM? ABBY, YOU DIDN'T GO ALL YEAR AND SUDDENLY THIS WEEK YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING HOURS AT A TIME!
WHAT GIVES? ARE YOU TRAINING FOR A TRIATHLON?
NO.
MY MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND I'M TRYING TO GET MY MONEY'S WORTH.
ARE YOU IN LINE FOR THE TREADMILLS?

THE HOLIDAYS ARE ALMOST HERE, AND I STILL HAVE TO BUY GIFTS FOR ALMOST EVERYONE WE KNOW!
12·4

HOW WILL I DO ALL THAT SHOPPING ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE I HAVE TO DO? I NEED A PERSONAL ASSISTANT!
HEH! CAN'T HELP YOU THERE!

OH, YES YOU CAN.
I WALKED RIGHT INTO THAT ONE...

I SHOULDN'T BE HERE TONIGHT. I'VE GOT A TON OF HOLIDAY SHOPPING TO DO.
YOU SHOULD DO WHAT I USED TO DO -- GIVE PEOPLE HOMEMADE BEER!
YOU BREW IT YOURSELF, BOTTLE IT WITH YOUR OWN LABELS AND GIVE IT TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!
PEOPLE LOVE IT. AND IT'S WAY CHEAPER AND EASIER THAN BUYING A BUNCH OF GIFTS AND CARDS.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, GEORGE!
HOW COME YOU DON'T DO IT ANYMORE?
'CUZ EVERY YEAR I GAINED TEN POUNDS FINISHING OFF WHAT WAS LEFT!
12-5

HEY, ABBY--I HAVE AN IDEA THAT COULD REALLY SIMPLIFY OUR HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING THIS YEAR.
OH, YEAH?
INSTEAD OF RUNNING AROUND BUYING STUFF, WE COULD MAKE SOMETHING EVERYONE WOULD REALLY ENJOY!
YOU MEAN LIKE LAVENDER PILLOWS?
NO-- HOME-BREWED BEER!
12-6

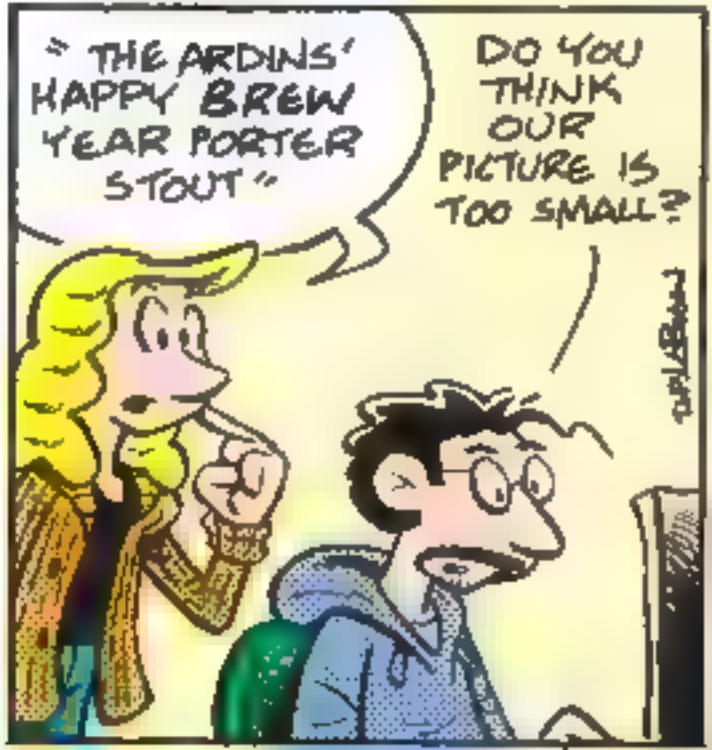
YOU WANT TO GIVE OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOME-BREWED BEER FOR THE HOLIDAYS?!
IT'D BE A REALLY COOL THING TO DO, ABBY!

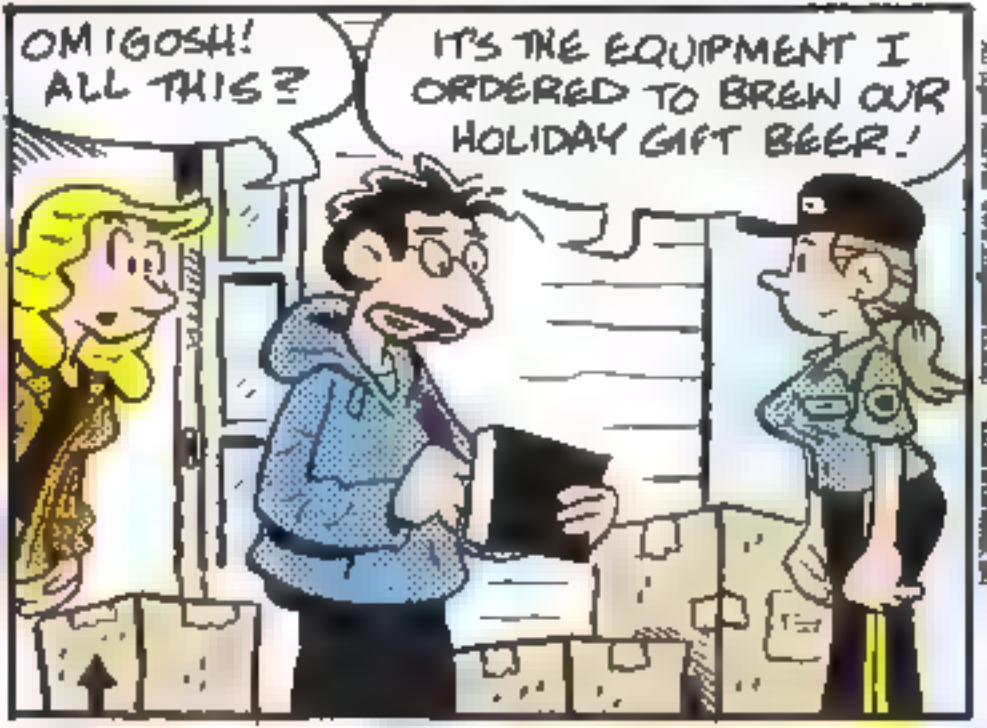
I COULD PUT IT IN BOTTLES WITH OUR OWN LABELS
AND IT'D BE CHEAPER THAN BUYING PRESENTS FOR EVERY-ONE.
I DON'T KNOW, LEN.
12-7

PLUS, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO LIFT A FINGER!
GO FOR IT!

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
I'M GETTING SET TO BREW OUR HOLIDAY GIFT BEER.

I'VE DOWNLOADED INSTRUCTIONS, ORDERED SOME EQUIPMENT... EVEN STARTED DESIGNING THE LABELS.
12-8

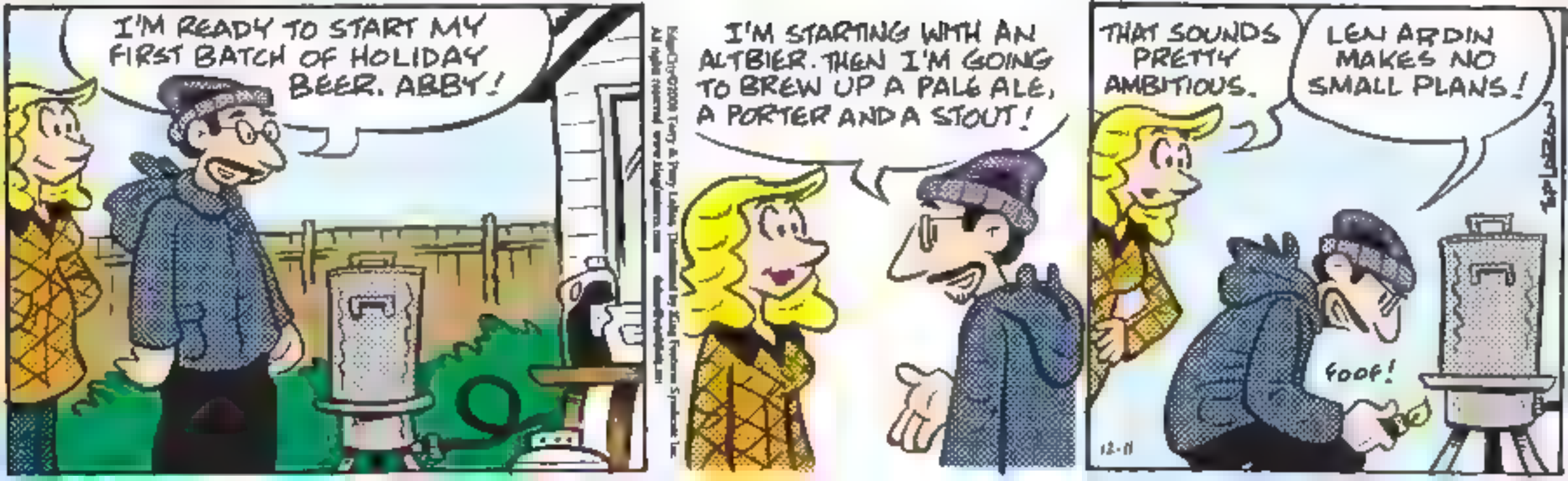

"THE ARDINS' HAPPY BREW YEAR PORTER STOUT"
DO YOU THINK OUR PICTURE IS TOO SMALL?

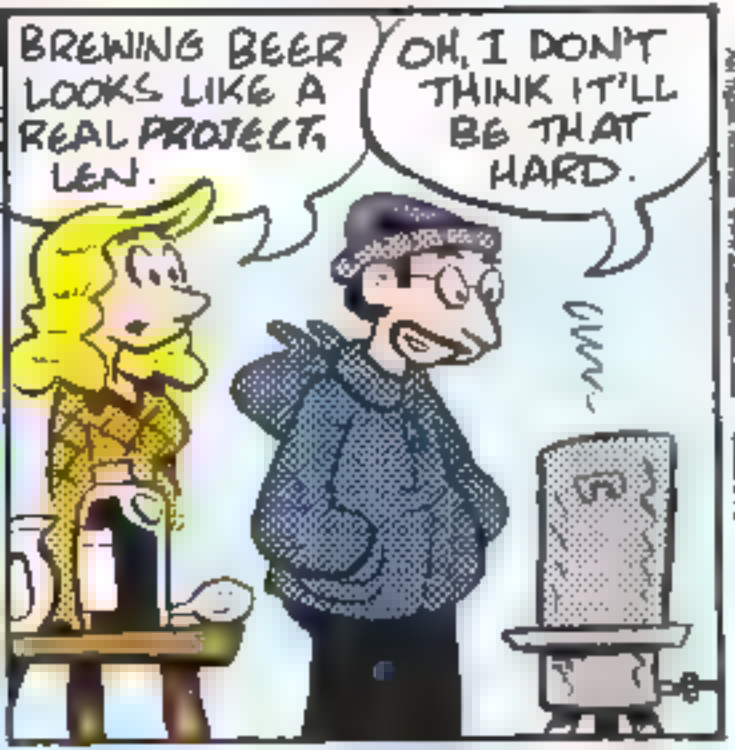

OMIGOSH! ALL THIS?
IT'S THE EQUIPMENT I ORDERED TO BREW OUR HOLIDAY GIFT BEER!

HOW MUCH DID YOU SPEND?
ABOUT $500
T.PLABON

I THOUGHT THIS IDEA WAS SUPPOSED TO SAVE US MONEY!
WELL, IT DEFINITELY WILL NEXT YEAR.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HOLIDAY GIFT BASKETS TO SEND TO OUR TOP CLIENTS.
JERRY RAUS
WE CAN SEND SELECTIONS OF HEIRLOOM FRUIT... ASSORTMENTS OF GOURMET FRENCH CHEESE... MEDLEYS OF HAND-CRAFTED BEERS...
MAN! I WOULDN'T MIND ORDERING SOME OF THIS STUFF FOR MYSELF!
HEH! I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
WE'RE GETTING AN AWFUL LOT OF FANCY GIFT BASKETS THIS YEAR!

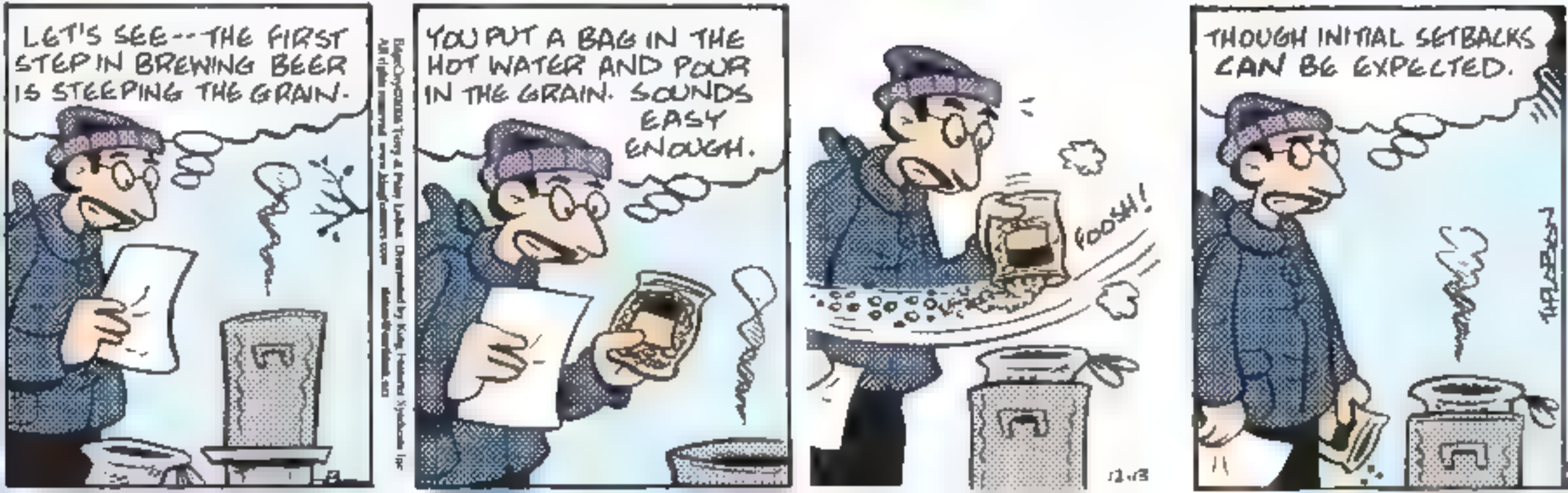

I'M READY TO START MY FIRST BATCH OF HOLIDAY BEER, ABBY!
I'M STARTING WITH AN ALTBIER. THEN I'M GOING TO BREW UP A PALE ALE, A PORTER AND A STOUT!
THAT SOUNDS PRETTY AMBITIOUS.
LEN ARDIN MAKES NO SMALL PLANS!
GOOF!
12-11

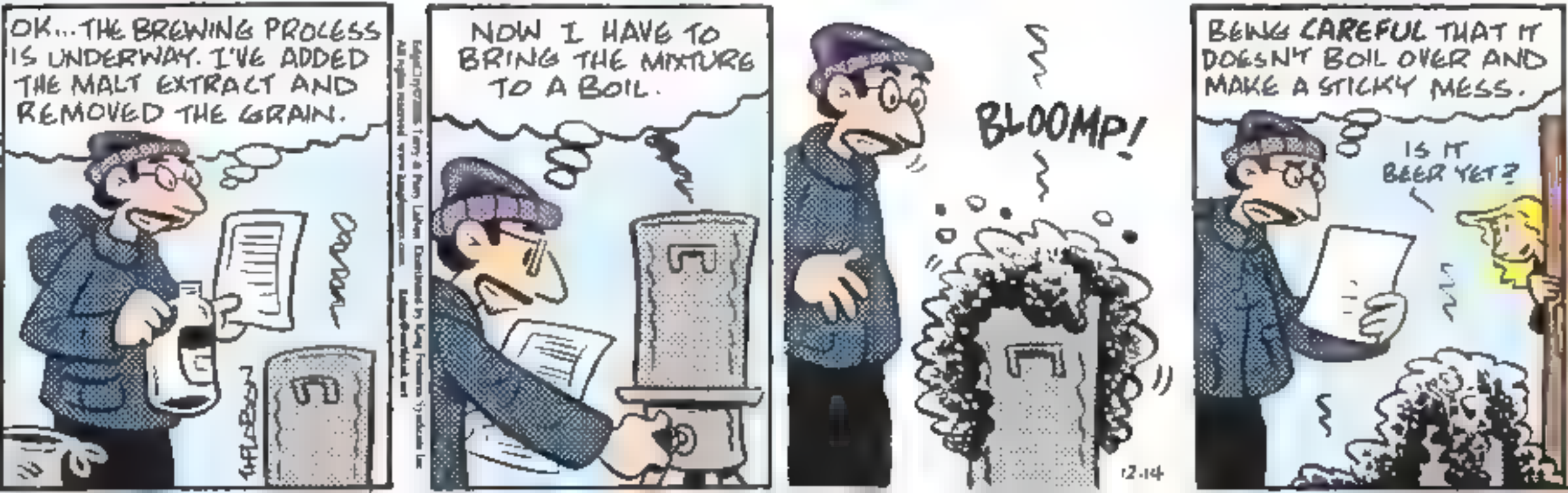

BREWING BEER LOOKS LIKE A REAL PROJECT, LEN.
OH, I DON'T THINK IT'LL BE THAT HARD.

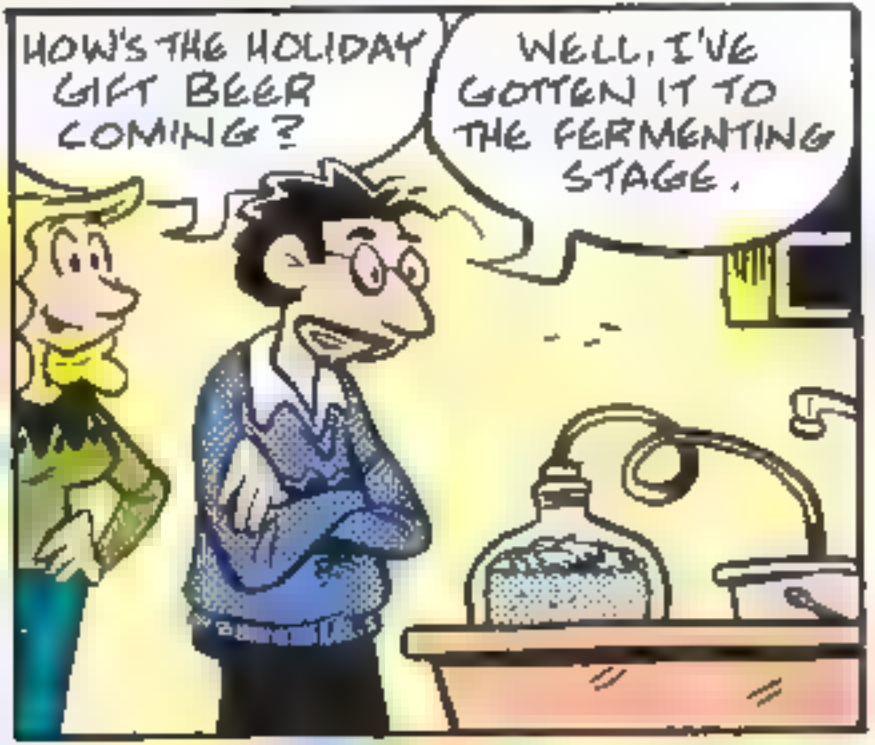
BEER'S PRETTY SIMPLE TO MAKE. THAT'S WHY IT'S ONE OF THE OLDEST ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.
12-12

IN FACT, SOME SCIENTISTS SAY AGRICULTURE STARTED BECAUSE PEOPLE NEEDED GRAIN TO MAKE BEER.

TODAY A THOUSAND GENERATIONS OF BREWERS STAND BY MY SIDE!
WELL, I'LL LEAVE YOU ALL TO YOUR WORK!


LET'S SEE--THE FIRST STEP IN BREWING BEER IS STEEPING THE GRAIN.
YOU PUT A BAG IN THE HOT WATER AND POUR IN THE GRAIN. SOUNDS EASY ENOUGH.
FOOSH!
THOUGH INITIAL SETBACKS CAN BE EXPECTED.


OK... THE BREWING PROCESS IS UNDERWAY. I'VE ADDED THE MALT EXTRACT AND REMOVED THE GRAIN.
NOW I HAVE TO BRING THE MIXTURE TO A BOIL.
BLOOMP!
12-14
BEING CAREFUL THAT IT DOESN'T BOIL OVER AND MAKE A STICKY MESS.
IS IT BEER YET?



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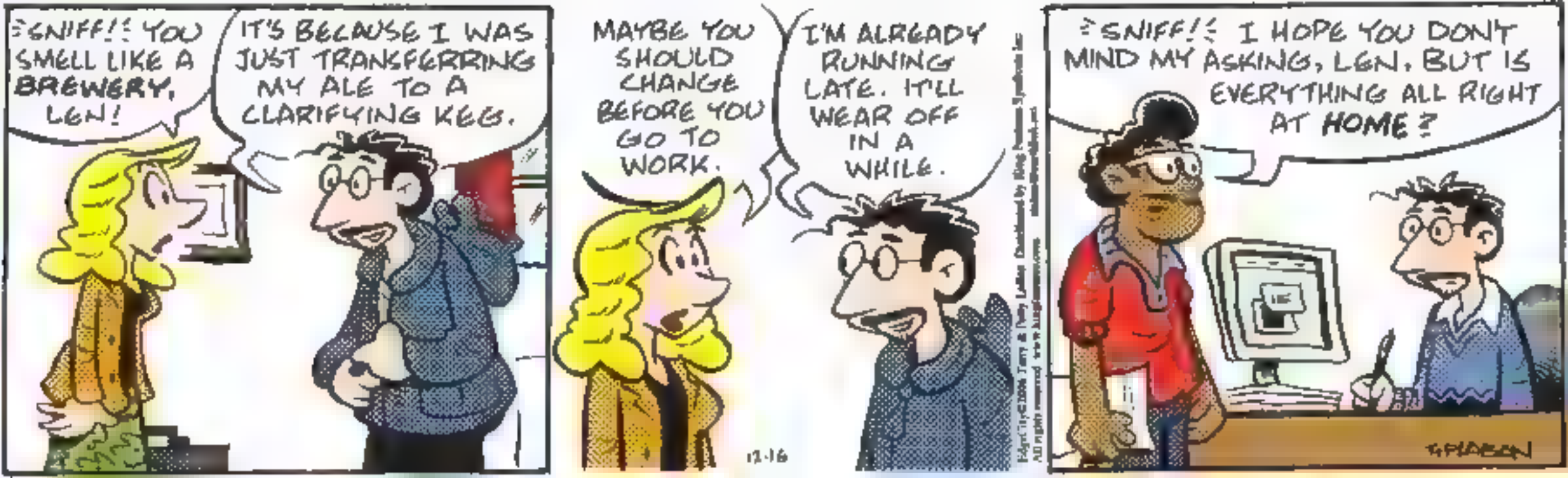
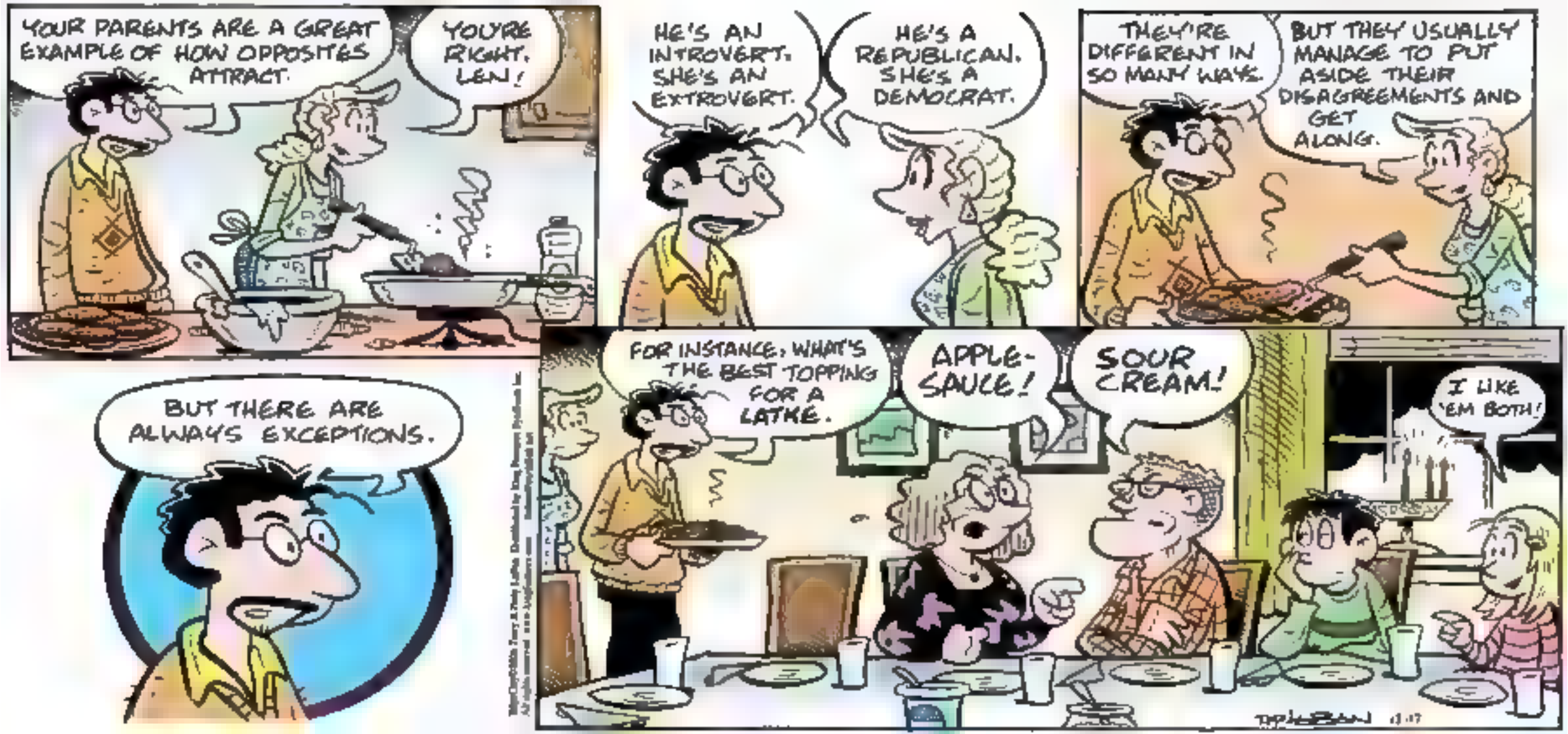

SNIFF!! YOU SMELL LIKE A BREWERY, LEN!
IT'S BECAUSE I WAS JUST TRANSFERRING MY ALE TO A CLARIFYING KEG.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD CHANGE BEFORE YOU GO TO WORK.
I'M ALREADY RUNNING LATE. IT'LL WEAR OFF IN A WHILE.
12-16
SNIFF!! I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING, LEN, BUT IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT AT HOME?
G. PHABIAN


YOUR PARENTS ARE A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW OPPOSITES ATTRACT.
YOU'RE RIGHT, LEN!
HE'S AN INTROVERT. SHE'S AN EXTROVERT.
HE'S A REPUBLICAN. SHE'S A DEMOCRAT.
THEY'RE DIFFERENT IN SO MANY WAYS.
BUT THEY USUALLY MANAGE TO PUT ASIDE THEIR DISAGREEMENTS AND GET ALONG.
BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS.
FOR INSTANCE, WHAT'S THE BEST TOPPING FOR A LATKE.
APPLE-SAUCE!
SOUR CREAM!
I LIKE 'EM BOTH!

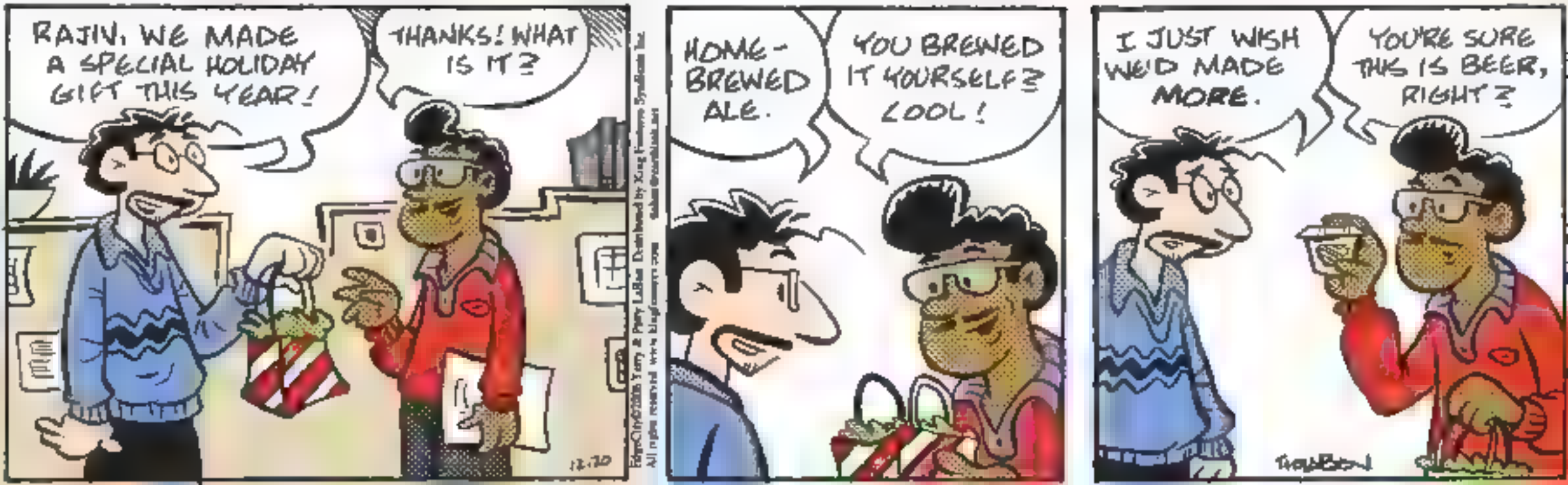
WELL, ABBY -- IT'S TIME TO SAMPLE OUR FIRST BATCH OF HOME-BREWED HOLIDAY BEER!
THIS IS THE PORTER. IT'S GOT A NICE COLOR AND A GOOD HEAD. OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE REALLY GOING TO LIKE THIS!
SPAT!
SPAT!
OR MAYBE NOT!
LET'S TRY THE STOUT!

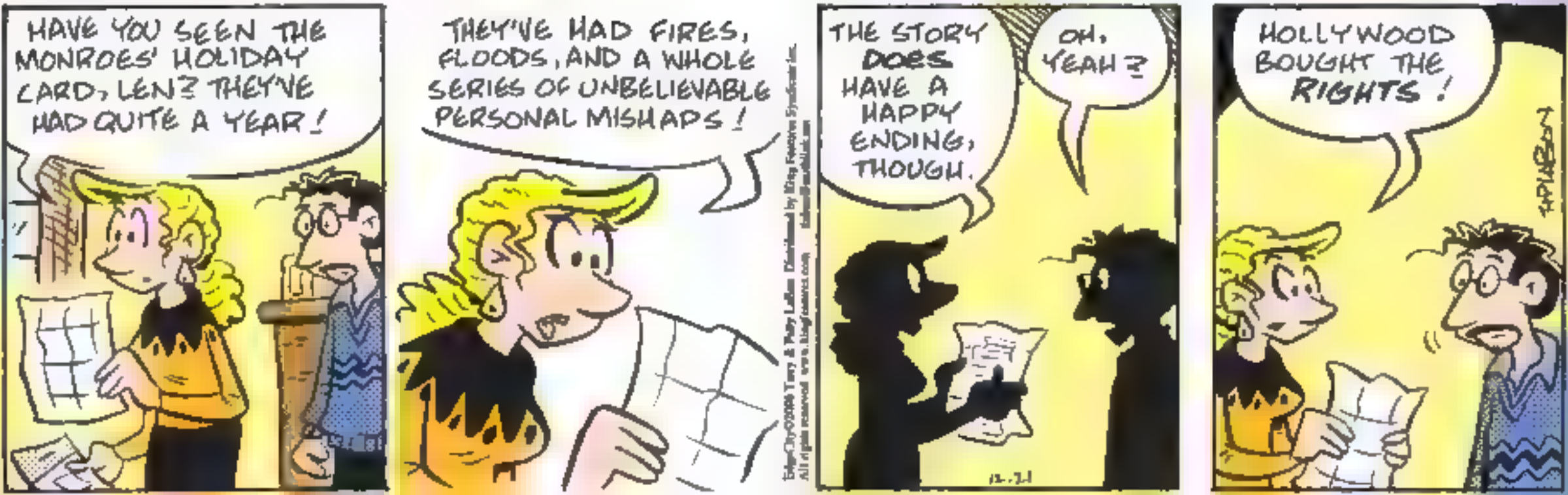
BLECH! THE PORTER, THE STOUT AND THE ALTBIER TASTE TERRIBLE!
WE DEFINITELY CAN'T GIVE ANY OF IT AS HOLIDAY GIFTS!

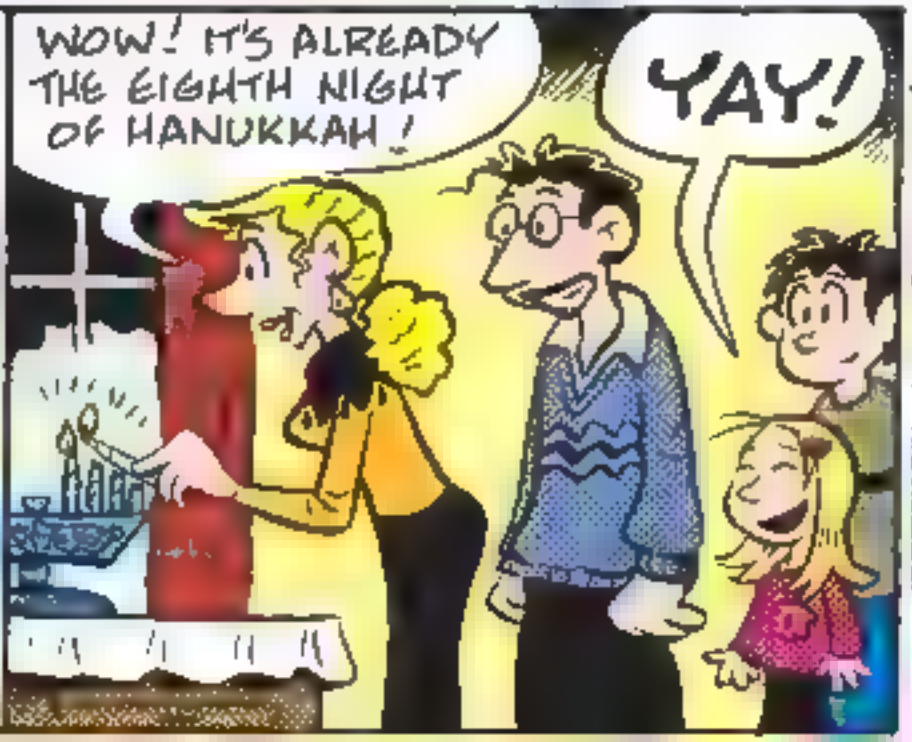
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! NOW WE HAVE A TON OF SHOPPING TO DO!
WE STILL HAVEN'T TRIED THE ALE.

WHAT'S THE POINT? THE ALE WON'T TASTE ANY BETTER!

WILL IT?
UMMM MMM!


RAJIV, WE MADE A SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFT THIS YEAR!
THANKS! WHAT IS IT?
12-20
HOME-BREWED ALE.
YOU BREWED IT YOURSELF? COOL!
I JUST WISH WE'D MADE MORE.
YOU'RE SURE THIS IS BEER, RIGHT?


HAVE YOU SEEN THE MONROES' HOLIDAY CARD, LEN? THEY'VE HAD QUITE A YEAR!
THEY'VE HAD FIRES, FLOODS, AND A WHOLE SERIES OF UNBELIEVABLE PERSONAL MISHAPS!
THE STORY DOES HAVE A HAPPY ENDING, THOUGH.
OH, YEAH?
HOLLYWOOD BOUGHT THE RIGHTS!

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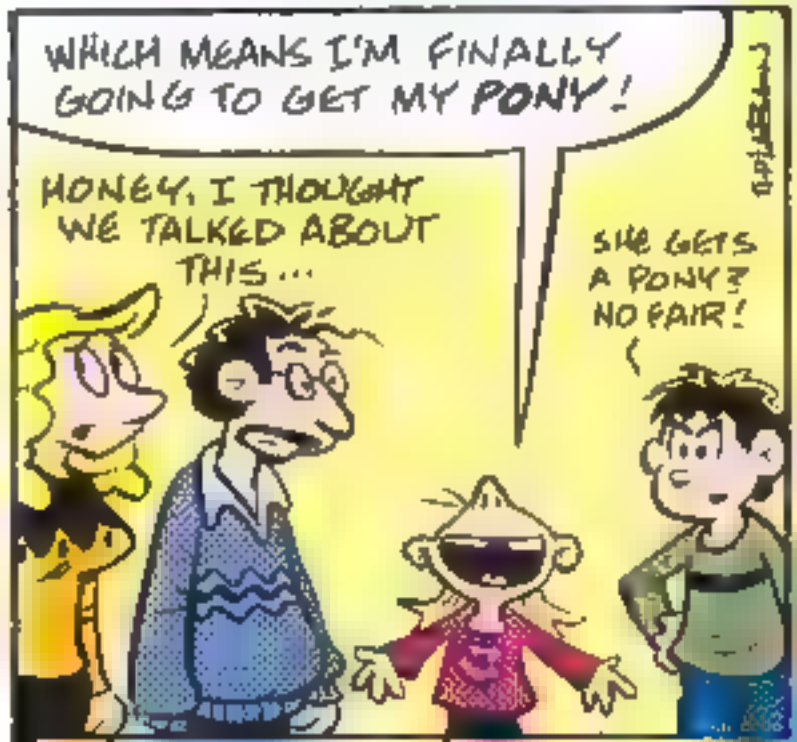
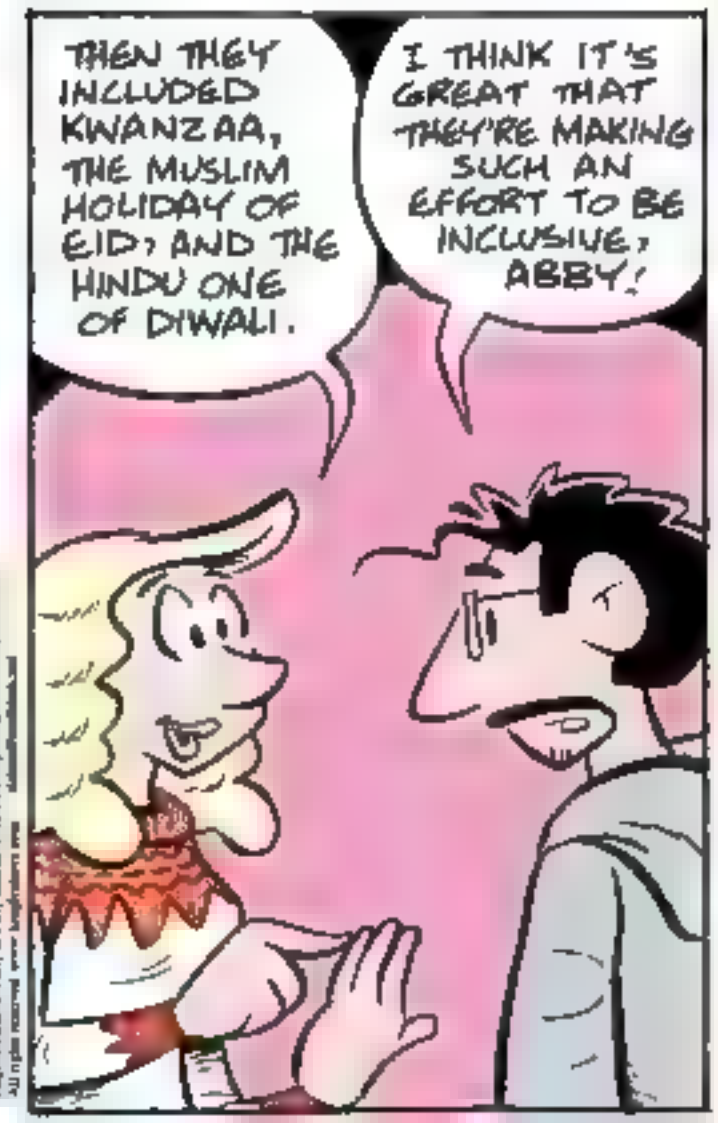
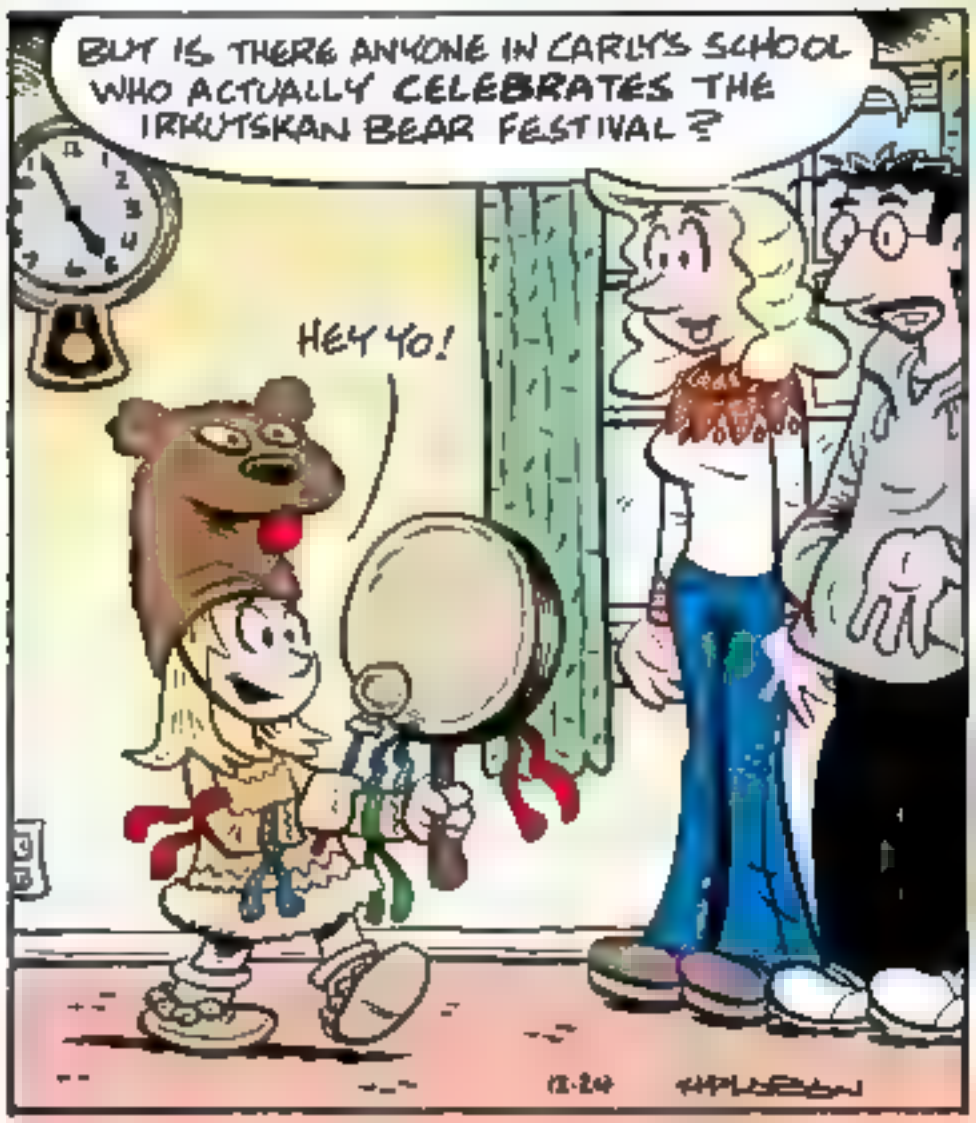
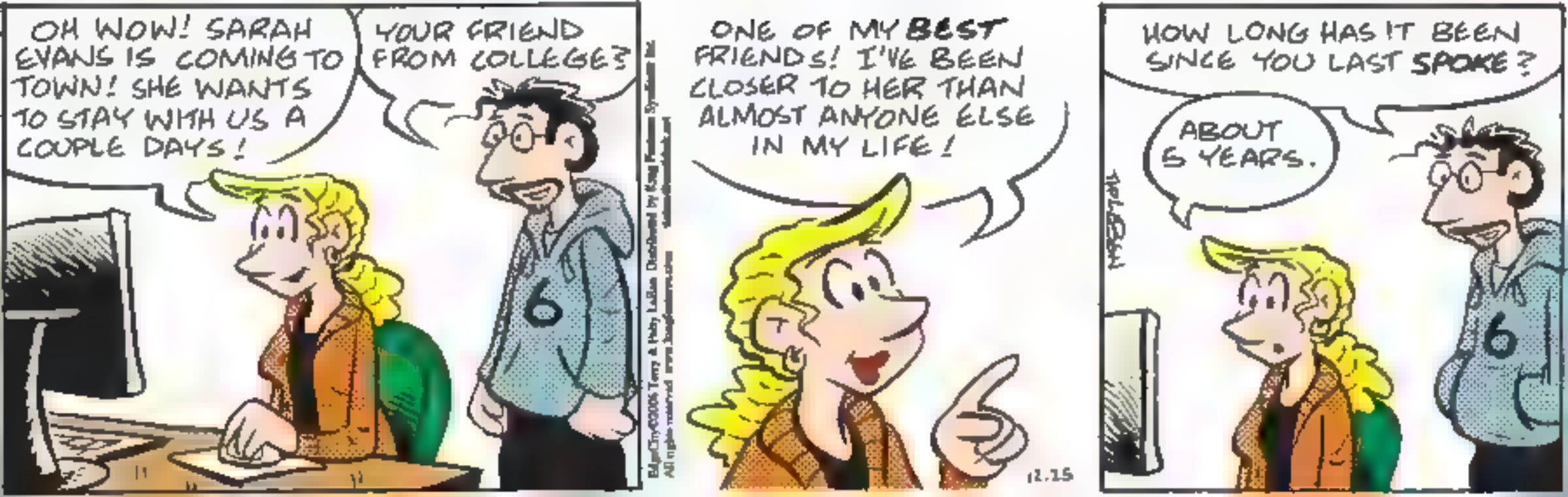


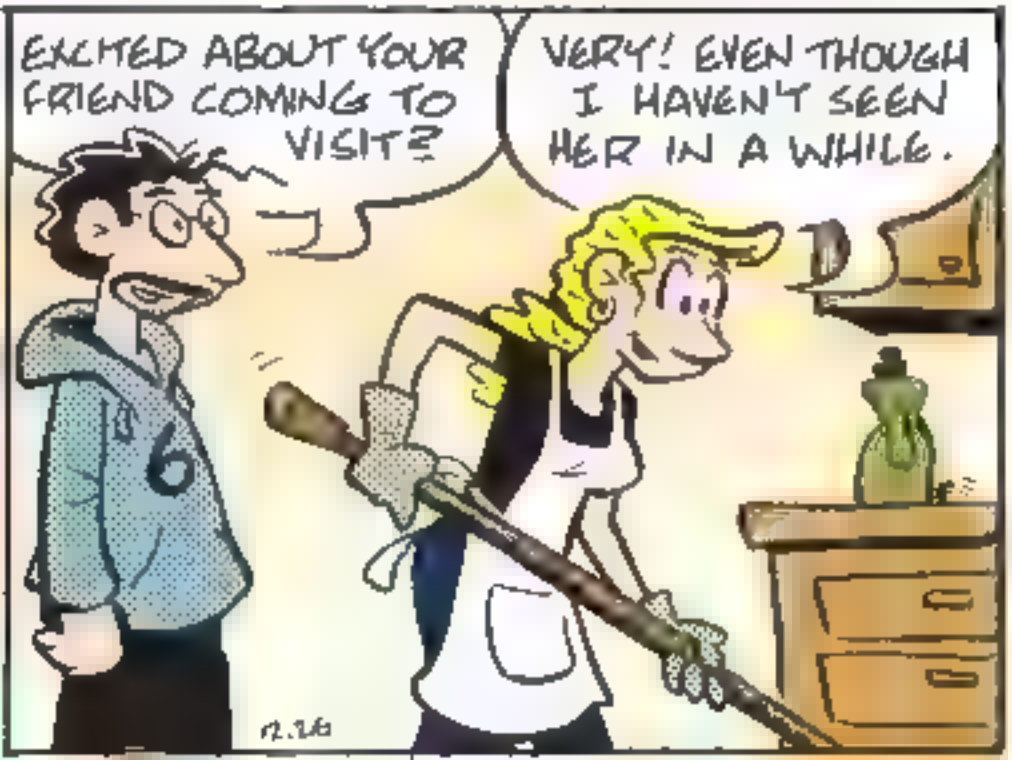
HOW'S THE WORK GOING?
WELL, WE'VE HAD A COUPLE OF CONTRACTORS QUIT, SOME DELAYS ON STUFF WE SPECIAL-ORDERED...
A PROBLEM WITH OUR PERMITS AND SOME COST OVERRUNS...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL FINISH ON TIME!
12-13
YOU EVER CONSIDER NOT DOING SUCH AN ELABORATE HOLIDAY DISPLAY?
NO WAY! WE'RE THE BEST HOUSE IN THE COUNTY!

IT USED TO BE THEY ONLY TALKED ABOUT CHRISTMAS. THEN, THEY STARTED MENTIONING HANUKKAH.

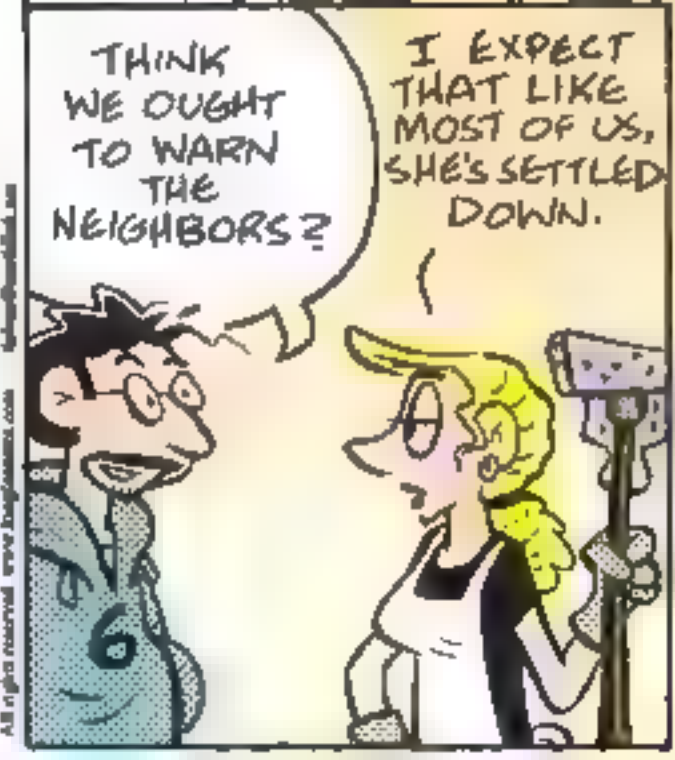

THEN THEY INCLUDED KWANZAA, THE MUSLIM HOLIDAY OF EID, AND THE HINDU ONE OF DIWALI.
I THINK IT'S GREAT THAT THEY'RE MAKING SUCH AN EFFORT TO BE INCLUSIVE, ABBY!

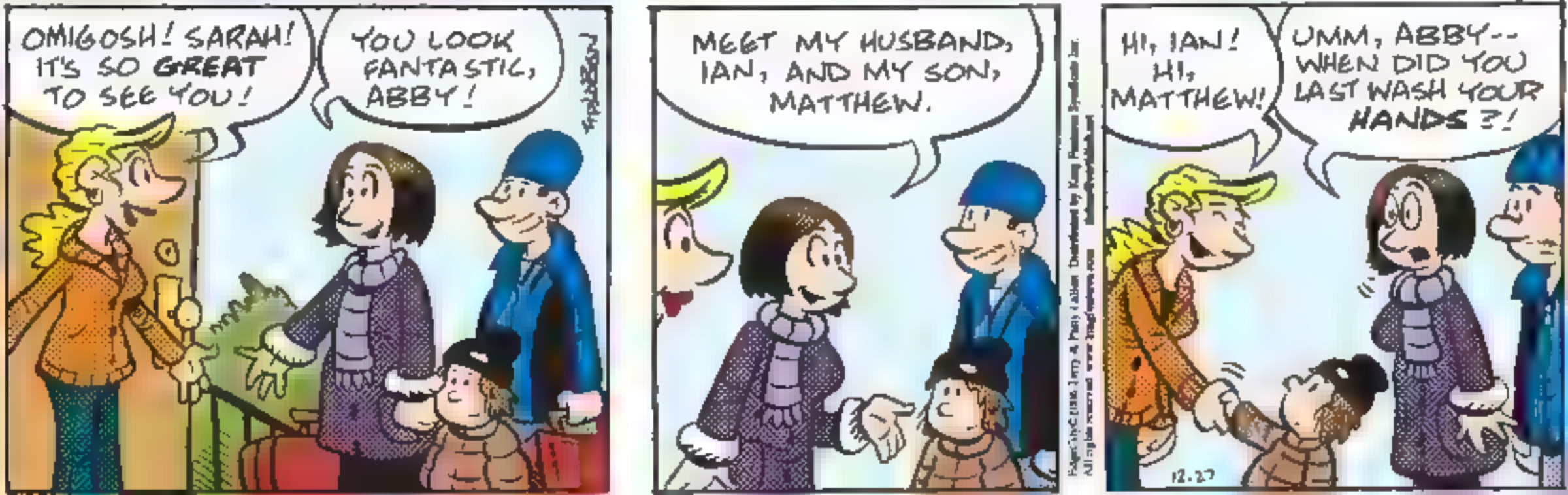

BUT IS THERE ANYONE IN CARLY'S SCHOOL WHO ACTUALLY CELEBRATES THE IRKUTSKAN BEAR FESTIVAL?
HEY YO!
12-24

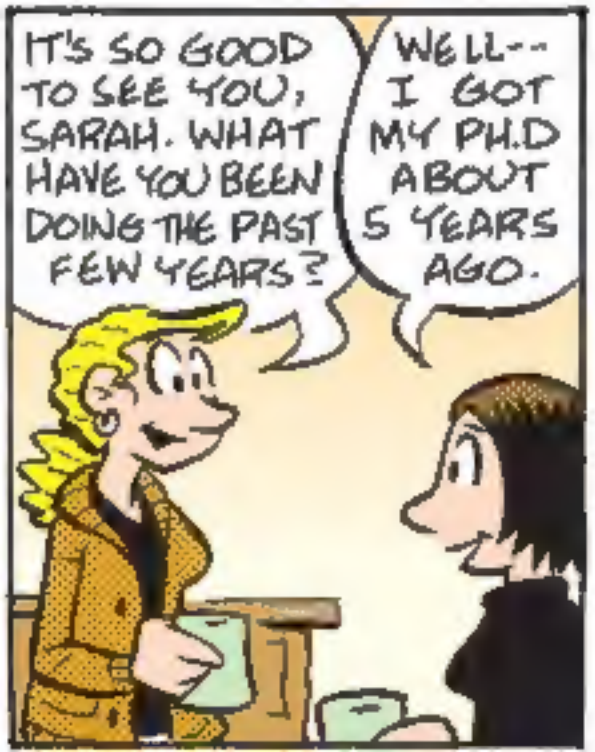

OH WOW! SARAH EVANS IS COMING TO TOWN! SHE WANTS TO STAY WITH US A COUPLE DAYS!
YOUR FRIEND FROM COLLEGE?
ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS! I'VE BEEN CLOSER TO HER THAN ALMOST ANYONE ELSE IN MY LIFE!
12.15
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU LAST SPOKE?
ABOUT 5 YEARS.

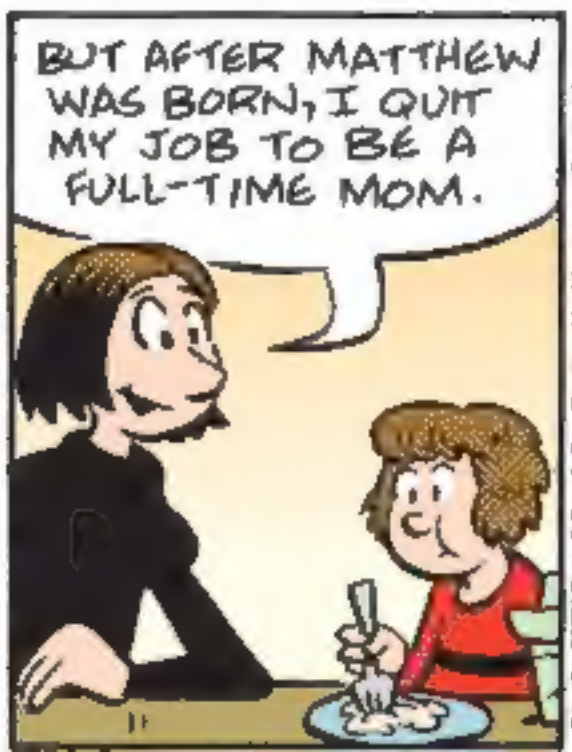

EXCITED ABOUT YOUR FRIEND COMING TO VISIT?
VERY! EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN A WHILE.

SHE WAS PRETTY OUTRAGEOUS IN COLLEGE. WE HAD SOME REALLY WILD TIMES.


THINK WE OUGHT TO WARN THE NEIGHBORS?
I EXPECT THAT LIKE MOST OF US, SHE'S SETTLED DOWN.


OMIGOSH! SARAH! IT'S SO GREAT TO SEE YOU!
YOU LOOK FANTASTIC, ABBY!
MEET MY HUSBAND, IAN, AND MY SON, MATTHEW.
HI, IAN! HI, MATTHEW!
UMM, ABBY-- WHEN DID YOU LAST WASH YOUR HANDS?!
12.27

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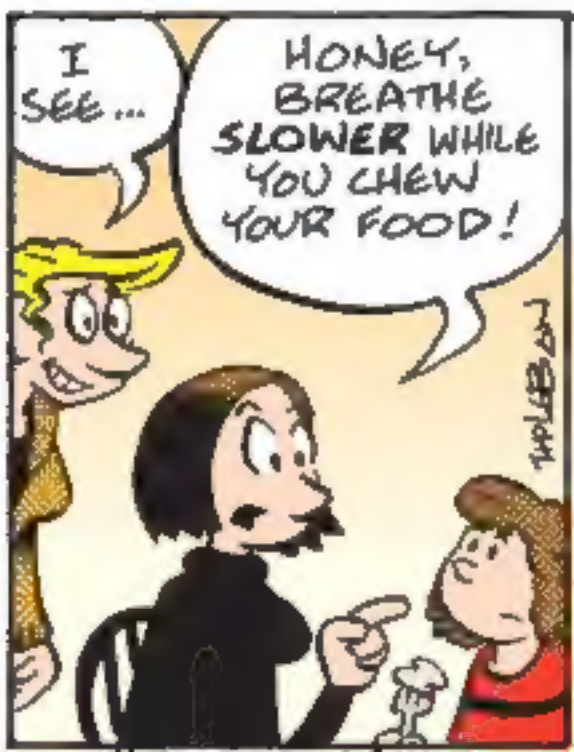
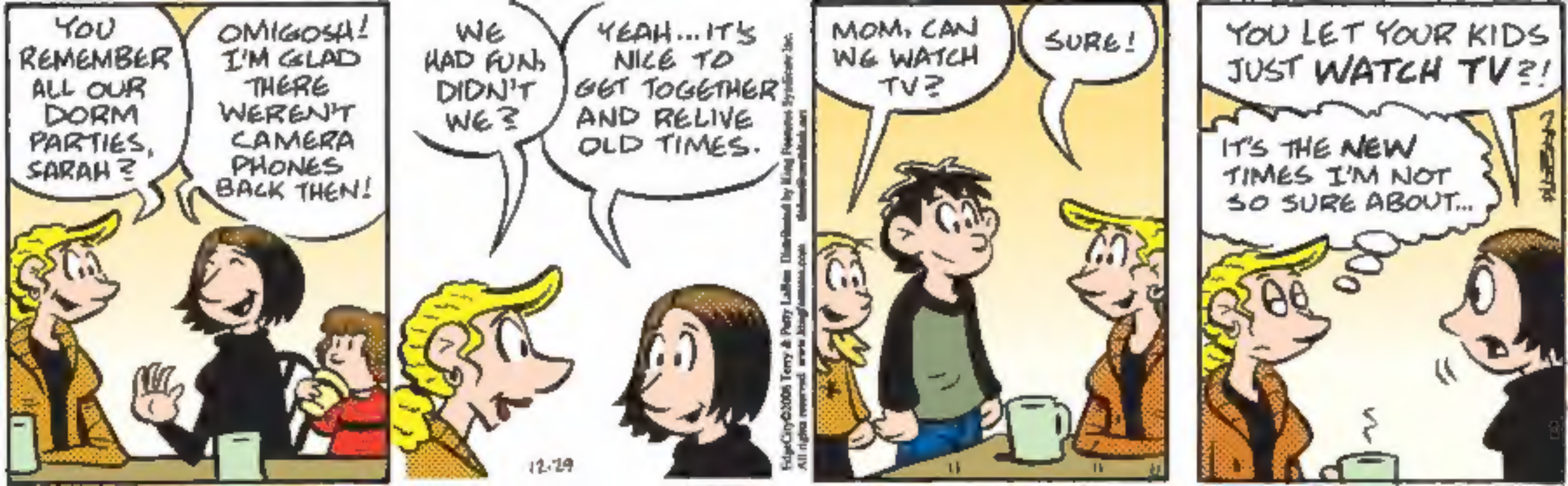
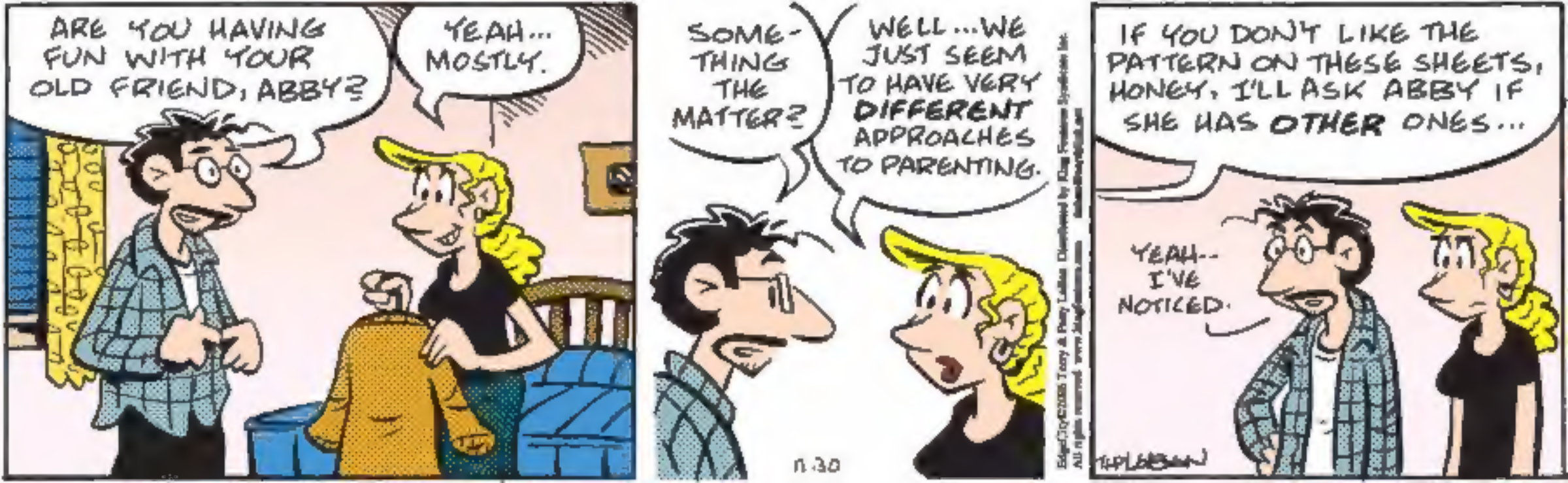
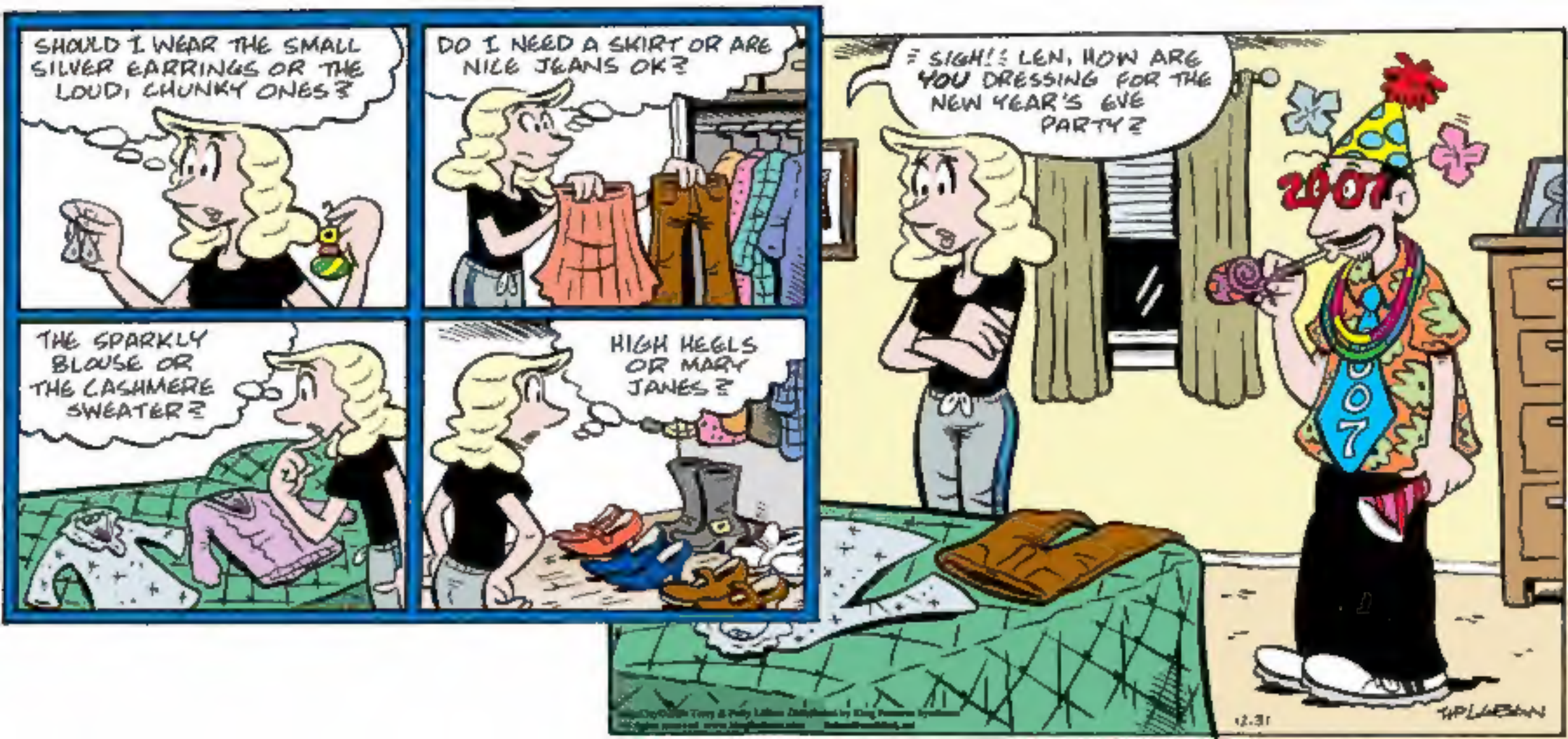
12.28




YOU REMEMBER ALL OUR DORM PARTIES, SARAH?
OMIGOSH! I'M GLAD THERE WEREN'T CAMERA PHONES BACK THEN!
WE HAD FUN, DIDN'T WE?
YEAH... IT'S NICE TO GET TOGETHER AND RELIVE OLD TIMES.
12-29
MOM, CAN WE WATCH TV?
SURE!
YOU LET YOUR KIDS JUST WATCH TV?!
IT'S THE NEW TIMES I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT...


ARE YOU HAVING FUN WITH YOUR OLD FRIEND, ABBY?
YEAH... MOSTLY.
SOME-THING THE MATTER?
WELL...WE JUST SEEM TO HAVE VERY DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO PARENTING.
11-30
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE PATTERN ON THESE SHEETS, HONEY, I'LL ASK ABBY IF SHE HAS OTHER ONES...
YEAH-- I'VE NOTICED.


SHOULD I WEAR THE SMALL SILVER EARRINGS OR THE LOUD, CHUNKY ONES?
DO I NEED A SKIRT OR ARE NICE JEANS OK?
THE SPARKLY BLOUSE OR THE CASHMERE SWEATER?
HIGH HEELS OR MARY JANES?
SIGH! LEN, HOW ARE YOU DRESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY?
2007
12.31
TIP LEBAN